54

605

R PI

CHILDREN'S BOOK
COLLECTION

LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

Mary Hughes
dedicated to Maria
Edgeworth

Isabella and Mary Ann Hulme relieving a distressed Family.

*vide Metamorphoses pages 127 & 128*

*Published July 14 1806. by W.m Darton Jun.r 58 Holborn Hill.*

THE

# METAMORPHOSES;

OR,

# EFFECTS OF EDUCATION.

A TALE.

---

BY THE AUTHOR

*Of "Aunt Mary's Tales," "The Ornaments Discovered," &c. &c.*

---

*LONDON:*

PRINTED BY AND FOR WILLIAM DARTON, JUN.
58, HOLBORN-HILL.

1818.

[*Price Half-a-Crown.*]

TO

# MARIA EDGEWORTH,

*The well-known Author of many admirable Books for Children.*

MADAM,

I TRUST the respect and admiration which dictate this little offering may serve, in some degree, as my apology for the liberty which I take in making it; and should be most happy at its being received by you as a token of esteem and gratitude. Gratitude for the instruction which my infant years received from your interesting publications; as well as the amusement, blended with instruction, which has been afforded to my more mature age, by those of a higher nature. I have presumed to make an attempt at treading the same path which you have so successfully travelled, and should feel highly gratified at being discovered to be even a humble follower. I must own, however, that, highly

as I have ever admired the productions of your genius, I have found it a difficult task to avoid the inclination to copy, rather than to imitate; though I hope I shall be found to be guiltless of theft, even in the midst of objects of admiration so various and multiplied. But, should a resemblance to your correct judgment, your noble sentiments of morality, or your fascinating powers of entertaining, be discovered in any of the little works which I offer to the public, the unintentional plagiarism will be acknowledged with satisfaction and pride by,

Madam,

Your's, with the highest respect

and admiration,

THE AUTHOR.

THE

# METAMORPHOSES, &c.

## CHAPTER I.

After all, Laura, (said Captain Darnley, stopping abruptly in the middle of the floor where he had paced for some time backward and forward, as if walking a ship's deck,) after all, I cannot conceive why a woman, so calculated to shine in fashionable life, should voluntarily condemn herself to live in the retired way you do, except from motives of economy; and that, considering your husband's liberal income, can only be caused by a degrading love of money.

That is indeed a very serious charge, brother, (replied Mrs. Mackenzie, good temperedly,) and I do not know what you will say to me, when I acknowledge the truth, at least, of your first supposition.

Then I will answer for the last, (returned the captain, hastily;) for what occasion on earth can you have to be so saving, except, because you love money better than any thing else: and who would ever have thought of you becoming so mean and contemptible? I wonder where you learned it; not, I am sure, from any of your own family, nor, yet from your husband, for it is you that have spoiled him: he had no taste for such work before he married you! He always seemed disposed to live in a

style suited to his fortune, and to shew that he had a heart to enjoy what he possessed; but now, instead of that, we find him living as though he could scarcely get his way kept clear.

Now, my good brother, (said Mrs. Mackenzie, when the captain had at length talked himself out of breath, and was again pacing the floor,) will you be so good as to tell me what it is, in our mode of living, that is so very disagreeable to you? Are you not satisfied with our house? Do you not think it large enough?

Oh! as to your house, for that matter, it might serve a nobleman: and I must say that your grounds are beautiful.

Then, have we not a sufficient number of servants?

Oh yes, quite; and I must acknowledge that you keep a very excellent table.

And as to our carriage, you yourself admired it the other day: and, on the same day, you gratified me by saying, you thought we had an uncommonly pleasant circle of friends; and that you had never paid a set of pleasanter visits in your life than you had done since you were our guest.

Very true, I did so.

Then what is it we are to amend?

Why your general mode of living, to be sure. You visit, it is true, amongst a choice circle of friends; but still the world knows nothing of you. Whilst Mrs. M'Gregor and Mrs. Macpherson, and Mrs. Mac this, and Mrs. Mac that, are giving their routs and their balls, who ever hears of Mrs. Mackenzie's? And why should not your house be open to your friends, as well as other people's?

To my friends it will always, I hope, be open, (re-

plied Mrs. Mackenzie;) but I can enjoy their society better in visits of a quieter nature; and on mere acquaintance, I am not disposed to throw away so much time.

Ah! Laura, I suspect the money too has something to do with it. Is it not because you set too high a value on it?

I do certainly set too high a value on it to be willing to spend it where I neither expect pleasure or profit in return.

But, pray why should you not expect as much, both of pleasure and profit, as other people? I am sure you are as well calculated both to give and receive them as any body I know. You have beauty and talents,—should you not let them be seen and admired?

I have no objection to being seen, and am very willing to be admired, (said Mrs. Mackenzie, smiling;) but might I not purchase that gratification at too high a rate? for, whilst I was admired abroad, what would become of my husband and children at home? Is it not possible that they might suffer for this indulgence of my vanity?

Let your husband go with you, and join in, and partake of, the admiration, (answered her brother;) and, as for the children, the nursery-maids are sufficient for some of them, and the others you have only to send to school, and they will be taken care of for you.

That is a kind of work which I could not easily be induced to turn over to any one to do for me, (said Mrs. Mackenzie.)

Oh! that is owing to your foolish notions about education, (returned the captain.) How do other people's children do, think you, that are kept in

the nursery, and scarcely ever allowed to see their father or mother? When they are old enough, they are sent to school, and remain there, without seeing home above once or twice a-year, till it is time, if boys, to be sent to college; and, if girls, to be introduced into the world? And yet I cannot see but they make their way through it just as well as those who have ten times the fuss made about them.

It happens, sometimes, no doubt, (answered Mrs. Mackenzie,) that there is a mind to be found with sufficient strength to make its way with credit and propriety, in spite of every disadvantage; but, in general, I believe they need every aid that experience, when most judiciously applied, can give them. Can you wonder then, with such ideas of the importance of education, that I should consider it a duty to pay the closest attention to that of my own children?

I do not wonder at all, considering your way of thinking; but I wish to convince you that you are mistaken in your opinions.

I am afraid you will find that a very difficult matter.

It would not be, if you would allow yourself liberty to think about it properly. Do you not believe that a child will grow up with the dispositions and temper which nature gave it, in spite of every thing that you can do to prevent it? Do you expect to work miracles? Do you think it would have been possible for any education to have made me a studious, learned philosopher?

I believe it would have been very difficult,—and still more so, to have planted one vicious inclination in your heart; and yet I have little doubt, that habit and example might in time have had the effect. The conversation was here interrupted by the en-

trance of Mr. Mackenzie, followed immediately by a servant, who brought a letter to the captain, which he had no sooner perused, than he put it into his sister's hand without speaking, when Mrs. Mackenzie immediately read the following:

To Captain Darnley,

*Frederick Mackenzie's, Esq.*
*Oaklands, near Edinburgh.*

My Dear Sir,

You very benevolently gave me a commission at the time of the death of your nephew, Mr. Henry Frankland, to keep a watch over his family, and let you know when there was any prospect of serving them. I have had little opportunity, during the intermediate two years, of executing the commission, as Mrs. Frankland has always shewn an invincible jealousy towards her husband's relations. I was surprised, however, three days ago, to receive a message from her, informing me that she was extremely ill, and wished much to speak to me as soon as possible. I need hardly say that I immediately obeyed the summons, and was much shocked to find her, to all appearance, dying. Her unfortunate love of gaiety had induced her to neglect a cold, which had hung long upon her, till a severe inflammation on her lungs was the consequence, which was evidently terminating her existence in a very rapid manner. Her wish was, to let me know that she had nominated me as her executor; and had left a request, that you would take upon yourself the guardianship of her children, who are two little girls of about five or six years old, but for whom, I am sorry to say, a few hundred pounds is all that is left—for neither father nor mother, unfortunately,

were in the habit of looking to futurity. Mrs. Frankland lived only a very few hours after these arrangements, but died much comforted by my assurances of your being kindly interested for her children. I took them home with me, where they are at present very happy with my young people, who are also much pleased with them. It has been suggested to me, that, in consequence of their father having been so general a favourite, a handsome subscription might easily be raised, for the purpose of educating them for useful situations, where they might be enabled to provide respectably for themselves: I have declined, however, taking any steps of this nature, till I hear from you, which I have no doubt will be as soon as possible. They are two very fine sensible children, and exceedingly pretty, particularly the youngest, who was her mother's favourite, and is certainly by much the most engaging. In the hope of being favoured as soon as possible with your commands respecting your new charge,

I remain, my dear Sir,
Yours, very sincerely,
THOMAS CROMPTON.

What must I do in this business, (said the captain, as Mrs. Mackenzie finished reading the letter, and put it into her husband's hand for the same purpose;) what must be done with these poor little helpless brats?

That matter will easily be settled, I think, (answered his sister.)

I cannot tell how *you* would settle it, (returned the captain;) but I am sure *I* am at a loss.

My brother (said Mrs. Mackenzie, with a look of great sweetness,) must adopt them as his own,

and employ me to take care of them for him till he leaves the sea, and comes to settle amongst us, and can take his two daughters to himself.

The captain again made a sudden stop in the middle of the floor, and, looking at his sister's countenance, as if to find out, by examining it, whether she were not in jest, at length exclaimed, on being convinced of the contrary, Is it possible, Laura, that you can be so blind to your own interest as to make such a proposal?

I wonder when you are to understand the strange mixture of my composition, (said Mrs. Mackenzie, smiling.)

Indeed, I cannot tell you, for it appears to me to be a thing altogether incomprehensible, that a woman, who can calculate so closely upon the expenses of a few entertainments in the year, should, of her own accord, advise me to adopt two children, when she knows that her own are at present the only ones to inherit the money which I shall leave behind me at my death.

The only difficulty lies in your ascribing your sister's retired way of living to a wrong motive, (said Mr. Mackenzie,) if retired it can be called, when she is in the constant habit of enjoying, in a rational way, the society of a select, but far from confined, circle of friends. She avoids all great entertainments, not merely because she thinks it wrong to spend so much money in so unprofitable a manner, but on account of the immense deal of time that they consume, which she proves it to be in her power to spend to so much more advantage. I need not, I am sure, remind you, that it is the economical alone who can be truly generous; and it is your sister's good management which makes her so

indifferent about any additional fortune for our children. She knows that we have already sufficient for their happiness and respectability, and her judicious economy is increasing it yearly.

Then I am to suppose that this plan meets with your approbation too! (said the captain.)

Most decidedly, (answered Mr. Mackenzie.)

Then I will now own to you, that, whilst reading the letter, the thought occurred to myself of adopting these poor little orphans; but I was afraid it would be unjust to your children, who have so much nearer a claim.

Can the children of a sister, whose means are ample, and who devotes herself to their care, have a nearer claim than these poor unprotected grandchildren of another, whom I know you loved most fondly? (said Mrs. Mackenzie, the tear of sensibility trembling in her eye.)

But what was it that made them portionless? (returned her brother,) was it not their father's extravagance? And what did I not do for him? Did I not throw thousands away upon him?

That is very true, (answered Mrs. Mackenzie;) but his innocent children must not suffer for the faults of their parents. Henry was, perhaps, more to be pitied than blamed. He lost his excellent mother when he was too young to have derived any lasting advantage from her care and attention; and his father's foolish indulgence laid the foundation of all his future errors.

Aye, that is according to your ideas of the effects of education.

It is so; and on that principle, I should be most anxious that his children should prove more fortunate. I hope, therefore, that you will entrust them

to my care, for the present; and nothing shall be wanting, that is within my power, to make their lives both happier and more respectable than either their father's or mother's was.

But this plan of yours is really an unreasonable stretch of generosity, Laura, (said the captain;) you know it is fully in my power to put them to the best schools: it is therefore quite unnecessary that you should have the trouble of them in addition to your own family.

It will be in my power to pay them closer attention than they could possibly receive at any school where the care is more divided, (replied Mrs. Mackenzie;) and, as to the trouble, where there are proper arrangements made for the accommodation of a family of children, the addition of one or two more makes but little difference. Besides, you know mine are all boys, and it will be an agreeable change in my employment to have some girls also to attend to. Do not, therefore, have any scruples on my account, but set at once about thinking how they are to be brought here.

That I have determined upon already. I intend to go for them myself, and will take a walk down to Leith now, and make enquiries about a ship.

A ship! (repeated Mrs Mackenzie, with surprise:) you would not surely think of going by sea at this time of the year! in March, the very time of the spring equinoxes.

And why not, pray? Does a sailor make any scruple about times or seasons? Do you think, if called away on duty, I should wait to consider what time of the year it was? And is not this a call of duty?

True, (replied Mrs. Mackenzie,) but there is no need of running unnecessary risks; for the duty will

be as well performed if you take the advantage of a safe conveyance, and go up in the mail.

Not I, indeed, (cried the captain, shrugging his shoulders,) I should never be able to straighten my legs more, after having them cramped up so long in a carriage. No! no! give me a good ship, and plenty of sea room, and let them enjoy the land conveyances that like them.

But you will not think of bringing the poor children down in the same manner? Surely, you will have more consideration for them? (remonstrated Mrs. Mackenzie.)

Not a bit of it, (replied the captain, in his usual abrupt manner;) let them learn to stem the storms of life in time: it will be the better for them. I have no notion of making spoiled babies of them!

And yet I know no one more likely to fall into the error, (said his sister, smiling.)

I wish, uncle, (said Douglas, a boy of about eight years' old, who had come into the room time enough to understand the conversation,) that I might go and help you to take care of them.

That is very well said, my boy, (cried the captain, clapping his head with great satisfaction;) that is very well said, indeed; and, as a reward, you shall take a walk with me to enquire about a ship.

I should like it very much, (replied Douglas, blushing,) but I cannot go to-day.

Why not? (asked his uncle.) Were you not saying, the other day, that you should like so much to go into a ship with me, that I might explain the uses of the different parts. You had better take me at my word now, for I may perhaps be off before I have another opportunity of going with you.

I am very sorry, (said Douglas,) but I must not go to-day.

What is the reason of this? (asked the captain, surprised at the boy's steady manner, and addressing himself to his sister.)

I cannot tell the reason, (answered Mrs. Mackenzie,) but I have no doubt there is some sufficient one; as I know it is a proposal that Douglas' inclinations would induce him to accept with joyfulness. I think, however, my dear boy, (added she, addressing herself to her son,) your uncle has a right to hear your reason.

Then the reason, Mamma, (said the little boy, blushing deeply,) is, because I know my papa and you will not think I deserve it, when you hear that I have just been in a passion, and struck Frederick a blow, which made his nose bleed. I came to tell you of it, for I knew he would not, and was only waiting till you were at liberty.

You judged very right, indeed, in supposing you ought not to accept your uncle's kindness, (replied his mother, gravely.)

But your honesty ought to save you from punishment, (said the captain:) I think, sister, you ought to forgive him, when he has been so honest as to make the confession himself.

I will leave it to himself to judge, whether he deserves to be so indulged, after hurting so kind a brother in a fit of passion, (replied Mrs. Mackenzie.)

Come then, my boy, (said the captain, holding out his hand, not doubting for a moment his nephew's willingness to have the matter dropt.)

No, thank you, uncle, (said Douglas, holding back his hand;) I would rather not go; but, if you

will take Frederick, I am sure it will give him a great deal of pleasure; and, without waiting for any further remark, he ran out of the room to find his brother. This is a fine fellow, (exclaimed the captain,) and will, some day or other, be an honour to us all.

I must, however, beg, (said Mr. Mackenzie,) as a favour, that you will neither attempt any further to move his resolution, nor to praise him too much for it. He has only done what was right, and must not be applauded as though he had done some extraordinary deed.

Oh, you will damp the boy's generous spirit, (exclaimed the captain;) you ought to reward such noble behaviour, or you cannot expect it to be practised again.

We do not wish for sudden flights of generosity, but a steady and conscientious principle of action, (answered Mr. Mackenzie.) If Douglas acted as he has done, with the expectation of converting censure into praise, he deserves to be disappointed; but, if it was the effect of principle, it will be a sufficient reward for him to be told that he has done what was right, and that his mother and I are satisfied with his conduct.

Frederick's wounds being healed, and his inclination being perfectly in unison with his uncle's invitation, they soon set out on their walk.

You need not go away, Douglas, (said Mrs. Mackenzie to her son, on seeing him about to leave the room, as soon as his uncle and brother were gone;) as you have shewn yourself sensible of your fault, and have had the resolution to inflict this punishment upon yourself, your papa and I will not take any further notice of it, but will trust to your good sense to avoid a future transgression of the same kind.

The little boy returned, with joy and animation sparkling in his eyes, and proved, by his solicitude to please, his gratitude for being so easily forgiven.

The Captain found a ship ready to sail the next morning; and, as he always travelled in so plain a style as to need little preparation, he took his passage in her. It was not many days before Mrs. Mackenzie received a letter, announcing his arrival in London, for he made a point, in consideration of what he called her womanish fears, to write immediately. He had not then, however, had time to see his two little wards, and could therefore give no further information about them; but it was not more than another week before Mrs. Mackenzie received the following letter:—

TO MRS. MACKENZIE.

Dear Sister,

I am sorry to have to inform you, that the third day after I arrived here, I received directions to join my ship immediately, which is ordered abroad; but where, I am unable to tell you. I am sorry it will not be in my power to return to Edinburgh, particularly as it will deprive me of the opportunity of rewarding Douglas for his conscientious behaviour, by taking him to see the frigate that is lying at Leith. I hope, however, that his father will do it for me; and, though he may not know quite so much about a ship as I do, he will still be able to give him a great deal of information. Tell Frederick, that I begin to think it is well that I did not stay much longer with him, lest my head should have got crammed so full of philosophy as to make me unwilling to go to sea again. I am sure, at least, that I should have been more and more unwilling to leave him,

the longer I had staid with him; for he is a good lad, and bore all my jokes about his gravity and learning like a man. I must now tell you that I have got one of your charges taken off your hand. I have had a letter from Lady Ann Stanley, (who I believe you know was a very intimate friend of their mother's,) offering to adopt Julia as her own; which is an offer not to be refused, though I cannot say but I am sorry she did not make choice of Isabella, as Julia is so much the pleasanter child that I could have wished you to have had her. As a specimen of the two dispositions, I will relate a little circumstance which occurred the other day. I had them both out walking with me, and took them into a confectioner's shop, and gave each of them a cake. Julia began to eat her's immediately, and had just finished, when a poor boy came to the door to beg. He told a piteous tale about being very hungry, and his mother not having any thing to give him to eat; which on Julia's hearing, she turned round to her sister, and asked her to give him her cake. Isabella, however, was not so charitably disposed, but said she was hungry herself. I held back on purpose to try what they would make out between them; when Julia, who could not resist the repeated solicitations of the little beggar, took a cake off the counter, without saying a word, and gave it to him. I then came forward, and, pretending to be serious, (though, in fact, delighted with her readiness to serve the poor boy,) asked her if she had any money to pay for the cake. No, she answered, but she would pay for it the first time she got any. What will you give me, if I pay for it for you, said I? Oh! I will give you one of my best kisses, she answered, and held up her pretty little mouth, with the most engaging sweetness. You

may be sure, I did not think the kiss dearly bought by discharging the debt; whilst Isabella eat her cake, without taking any notice of what passed. It is no wonder that Julia was the favourite with her mother, for she is the same with every body else. I am sorry that Isabella is not more like her, for your sake, though I know you will bear with her with more patience than any other person would, and she will be an excellent subject for your experiments in education. If you ever make any thing of her but a selfish, narrow-minded soul, I will become henceforward a convert to your opinion; but I have not a notion that the most careful management can make a bad tree produce good fruit. I have been so fortunate as to meet with a gentleman who is going to Edinburgh, and has been so kind as to consent to take the trouble of conveying her thither. They set off to-morrow or next day; so that you may expect to see them soon after the receipt of this letter. About the same time I shall set out for Portsmouth, where I have to join my ship, and shall take Southampton in my way, that I may leave Julia with Lady Ann. I do not intend, however, to give her up entirely to her ladyship, but will only lend her to her, during my absence; for, when it is in my power to have them with me, I do not think it would be right to separate them.

I never wrote so long a letter as this in my life before, excepting to give an account of an engagement. What a strange thing, that I, who have always laughed at people for talking so much about their children, should fall into the same error as soon as ever the temptation came in my way. I know, however, that I could not meet with any one more ready to forgive the fault than you will be, and shall not

therefore lengthen my letter by apologies; but shall only add, with sincere love to all your tribe of Mackenzies, that

I am your affectionate brother,

HENRY DARNLEY.

P. S. I enclose Lady Ann's letter, by way of giving you an idea what a kind friend Julia has gained, and that you may be the more reconciled to her not coming to you. I must confess, however, that I should have liked it quite as well if it had been written in a plainer style—but every body has their way.

When Mrs. Mackenzie read their uncle's letter to her sons, they expressed great regret at being disappointed of the pleasure of seeing him again; for, under the appearance of considerable bluntness of manner, he possessed a most affectionate and happy disposition, and never failed to secure the hearts of all around him, particularly the younger branches of the family, of whom he was in the habit of taking a great deal of notice; and though, they were sometimes rather at a loss how to understand his jokes, his good-tempered laugh soon convinced them that nothing was further from his mind than ill-nature.

But what do you think of the account of your cousins? (said Mrs. Mackenzie.)

It was very humane of Julia to be so anxious that the poor little boy should have something to eat, (said Douglas, who, though younger, was generally readier at speaking than his more deliberate brother;) yet I think it was not quite right of her to give him a cake that was not her own. But, however, it was at any rate better than Isabella's selfishness.

I should like to know (said Frederick,) whether Isabella would not have parted with hers, if she had

been made to understand, that, though she was hungry, she was sure of getting as much food as she wished for very soon; but the poor little boy might, perhaps, wait a long time before he got any thing to satisfy his hunger. Besides, (added he,) I do not think it was honest of Julia to give what did not belong to her.

Oh! but you know (returned Douglas,) she intended to pay for it as soon as she got money.

It is dangerous, however, (said their mother,) to be generous at the expense of prudence. To incur debt for the sake of giving away, is running a great risk of being generous at the cost of another.

Would you then have had her let the poor boy go away without any thing, mamma? (asked Douglas.)

There is another expedient, which she might perhaps first have tried.

What is that, mamma?

Ask your brother if he can find it out.

When she found that she had nothing of her own to give, and could not prevail upon her sister, I would have had her apply to my uncle, (answered Frederick.)

But, I dare say, she was in too great a hurry to relieve the poor boy, to recollect that my uncle was there. She had too much feeling to go so deliberately to work.

It is a very mistaken notion of feeling, my dear Douglas, to honour impetuosity with that name, (replied his mother.) Charity ought to be given with prudence and deliberation, that what we have to give may be applied in the most judicious manner; and we ought always to be careful not to deceive ourselves with the idea that we are generous when we only give what costs us nothing to part with.

Mrs. Mackenzie now took up Lady Ann Stanley's letter, which, as a characteristic epistle, may not, perhaps, be unamusing to our readers.

To Captain Darnley,

*Thomas Crompton's, Esq.*
*No. 15, Grosvenor Street, London.*

Sir,

After the first emotions of grief are subsided for the loss of a friend, who was the chosen favourite of my heart, I sit down, in the hope of finding some alleviation of my sorrow, by making a request, which was the immediate dictate of my mind on hearing of the loss which I had sustained. You, Sir, I understand, are nominated guardian to the two little helpless beings whom my beloved Julia has left behind her. To you, therefore, I apply for permission to take her youngest darling, the inheritress of her mother's beauty and virtues, to my now (a second time) widowed heart, and teach her to fill the aching void that death has left there. Oh! Captain Darnley,—wealth I despise, and could have parted with all I possess without a sigh, excepting as it deprived me of the power of making others happy; but to be torn from those we fondly love, is to drink deeply, indeed, of the bitter cup of affliction. With what delight shall I clasp the little angel to my bosom! she engaged my affections the first moment I saw her. I traced in her speaking-countenance the lines of those virtues which my heart always adopts with kindred warmth. Nothing engages the affections like a similarity of feeling; and I will venture to say, that she could fall into the care of few, where the charming sensibility of her soul would meet with fonder encouragement. I will teach her to feel for

the miseries of others, and then she will have a right to look for sympathy and commiseration in return.

I shall wait, my dear Sir, most anxiously for your answer; and, in the hope of its being in unison with my wishes,

I remain, with great respect,
Your obedient servant,
ANN STANLEY.

## CHAPTER II.

CAPTAIN DARNLEY and his little companion were received with the strongest expressions of kindness by Lady Ann. Her ladyship, though already dressed, and just on the point of setting out to a large dinner-party, refused to fulfil her engagement, though she could not prevail upon the Captain to do more than take a hasty lunch with her, before he proceeded on his journey. Delighted to find that the beauty of her little favourite had encreased considerably since she last saw her, she lavished her kindness with redoubled ardour. What a perfect angel she is grown! (exclaimed her ladyship, clasping her arms about the delighted Julia, who was too much accustomed to such expressions of admiration to be disconcerted with the extravagance of it;) what life and animation there is in those eyes! what a countenance beaming with sensibility. It shall be my study, Captain Darnley, to prevent her open and ingenuous spirit from being repressed by severe restrictions, or the cold, chilling precept of worldly prudence. Nature has given her a feeling and liberal

soul, and she shall enjoy its delights whilst she is a stranger to the chills of disappointment and misfortune.

Your ladyship would agree much better with me about the management of children than my brother and sister Mackenzie did, (said the Captain;) for they seem to expect that children of eight or ten to have the prudence and judgment of three-score.

Oh, a prudent child is my aversion, exclaimed Lady Ann. If possessed of so much coldness and self-command at that age, what will they be when repeated experience of the disappointments of the world, which naturally damp the most ardent mind, shall have extinguished the small spark of feeling that they ever possessed?

There is nothing I admire so much as an open, generous temper, (returned the Captain;) and I hope, by encouraging a spirit of generosity in this child, we are doing her no unkindness; for it can only be a misfortune when the power is not joined to the will to give. But of that, I hope, there is little danger: for, both you and I, Lady Ann, are provided with ample fortunes, without having any much nearer claims upon us.

My means are at present very ample, certainly, (replied her ladyship,) and it shall be my care to make the most of them for my dear little protegée. But Sir Thomas Stanley, who, though one of the best of husbands, had a mind more circumscribed by prudence—(I mean that low worldly sort of prudence, which sets a higher value on money than it deserves), was so afraid of my extravagance, as he sometimes unjustly styled it, that he thought proper only to leave me an annuity; and, though it is a liberal one, of 5,000l. a year, I still feel a deficiency in not hav-

ing any thing at my own disposal, to leave to this dear creature. I will, however, take the expense of her education and support as long as she remains with me, and you will, I am sure, make a provision for her afterwards.

That you may depend upon, (answered the Captain ;) she and her sister shall share equally with my sister's children in what I have to leave, which will at any time be sufficient to provide them with a reasonable share of affluence.

The Captain now thought it time to proceed on his journey, and therefore rose to depart. He was surprised to find, by his regret at parting with Julia, how much she had gained on his affections, whilst the little girl, on her part, testified the most lively concern at taking leave of him. She clasped her little arms about his knees, and entreated that he would not be long in coming back, and taking her to live with her sister and him ; and even Lady Ann's flattering caresses failed, for some time after his departure, to dissipate her tears. At length, however, they were dried, and she was amused by being shewn the apartment which was to be appropriated to her use, and hearing an attendant told, that her time was to be entirely devoted to her young mistress, whose spirits she was strictly forbidden to damp by contradiction or restrictions. Her ladyship's first care was to set about enquiries for a proper governess for her little ward, and it was not long before she succeeded in a manner that surpassed her most sanguine expectations. Miss Courtley was a woman of most elegant manners, and a proficient in all the polite accomplishments, in which Lady Ann was particularly anxious to see her little charge excel ; whilst her ready acquiescence in all her ladyship's opinions re-

lieved her from any fears of being thwarted in her views with respect to the other parts of her education. In less than two months, therefore, after Julia's arrival, Miss Courtley was regularly installed in her office of governess, and Lady Ann relieved from all her self-imposed restrictions of being domestic, that she might look after the child herself; which she had so far adhered to, as to have remained three days at home in that time with only a very small party of friends.

Your ladyship is liberal beyond all bounds, (said a favourite companion, on hearing Lady Ann relate, as she sat at the head of a large dinner-table, surrounded by admiring guests, that Miss Courtley was indeed fixed upon for Julia's governess—for which she was to receive a hundred a year;) very few people would have thought of engaging so expensive a person : but you always do twice as much as any one else.

Oh, as to the expense, it is never a matter of consideration with me, even in cases of less moment. But, as you know it is my determination to give the sweet child every advantage that education can procure, you cannot, I am sure, suppose I could hesitate a moment, whether I should give eighty or a hundred pounds for a proper instructress.

We cannot suppose any thing of Lady Ann that is not generous and amiable, (said Colonel St. John, looking at her ladyship with a languishing air ;) and we have only to wish that the little girl may prove a good copy of the charming example before her.

I am a poor weak child of feeling, (replied Lady Ann, looking down and blushing, or at least endeavouring to blush ;) I act all from impulse, and what would be merit in others is only nature in me.

How charming, then, must be that nature which consists of all we admire and love, (added the Colonel, with increasing tenderness.) Her ladyship was prevented disclaiming her right to the compliment by the entrance of the little girl, who was handed by Miss Courtley into the room, as the dessert was served up. Immediately all attention wa directed towards Julia, for each looked upon her as a convenient channel through which they might lavish their adulation upon their charming hostess, who was too handsome, too fashionable, and too rich, not to be an object of universal devotion. "Will you come to me?" "Will you have some of these fine grapes?" "Will you kiss me, and you shall have this beautiful peach?" was echoed round the table. At length, Colonel St. John's proved the successful bait, and Julia allowed him to jump her on his knee, to share some pine-apple with him. Accustomed to appearing in large companies, and to be admired and caressed by every one she came near, Julia received admiration as a tribute of right. But, though she looked for it, and universally obtained it, her disposition was naturally so gentle and obliging, that, instead of taking advantage of the indulgence with which she was treated, and being ill-natured, she discovered no other wish than to lay herself out to please, that she might gain a still more copious libation of praise. Were you not very sorry to part with your sister, (asked the Colonel,) as Julia sat chatting on his knee with great sprightliness. Oh! yes, very sorry indeed, (answered Julia;) and I often wish she were here, for I dare say she is not half so happy as I am, nor has half so many nice things. But I am going to send her a doll some day, the same

one Lady Ann bought me yesterday.—And where is the doll to come from? (asked the Colonel.)

I shall buy it, replied Julia, as soon as I get as much money; and I dare say I shall get as much very soon, for it will only cost two guineas.

But, if you had only two guineas, would you spend them all upon your sister?

Oh yes, I would spend them all upon her, for I like to be generous; and, when I am generous, I always get a great deal more to make up for it.

Then here are two guineas, (said the Colonel, slipping them into her hand as he spoke,) that you may have the pleasure of buying your sister her doll immediately. Julia took the money, and repaid the Colonel for his liberality by staying to talk to him, in spite of all the solicitations which she received from all other quarters to divide her favours more generally.

If you prove as successful with the widow as you are with the protegée, Colonel, (whispered a gentleman who sat near him,) your fortune is made at once.

It is better to lay siege to a beautiful and rich widow than to a fortified town; for the spoils are likely to prove great, whilst I apprehend there is little danger of the wounds proving mortal, even in case of a defeat.

At length the ladies withdrew, when Julia, elevated by the praises she had received from the Colonel, and still more so by the wine she had sipped from his glass, became so noisy and riotous, that her maid was rung for, and Julia was ordered to her own room. This change she did not at all admire; for the nursery, with only Margaret for a companion, was but a poor substitute for the gay and admiring

throng which she had been mingling in, and even her generally happy temper was excited to peevishness.

You must go to bed, Miss Julia, (said Margaret; for the maid, like her superiors, wished to relieve herself from any further trouble, by packing her little charge off to bed an hour earlier than her usual time, that she might herself be at liberty to go and pay a visit, for which she was already dressed;) you must go to bed, for I assure you it is quite time.

I do not choose to go to bed yet; for neither Lady Ann nor Miss Courtley said I was to do so: I am sure it is too soon, (said Julia, in a peevish tone, impatient at being obliged to go to bed at the moment when she felt in humour for enjoying herself, merely to suit her maid's convenience,)—I know, (continued she,) what it is that makes you in such a hurry to put me to bed: you are impatient to go and shew your smart new gown; but I will disappoint you; and, as she spoke, she took up a bottle of oil, with which her maid had been perfuming her hair, and emptied a great part of its contents upon Margaret's lap. Oh! Miss Julia, you have spoiled my new gown, that I never had on before, (exclaimed Margaret, in a tone of great distress.) Julia's ill-humour was immediately subdued with the sight of the mischief she had done. I am sorry I have spoiled your gown, (said she,) but it is no great matter, for I can buy you another, and a handsomer one to-morrow, for, look, I have plenty of money;—and, as she spoke, she shewed the two guineas which the Colonel had given her, without recollecting that it was not, in fact, her own, as it had been given her expressly for the purpose of buying a doll for her sister. Satisfied with this promise, Margaret's grief

subsided; and, Julia's rebellious humour being subdued, she went quietly to bed, contenting herself with the thought that she had made amends for her ill temper by her promises of restitution; for, accustomed to act from the impulse of the moment, she had no idea of considering whether she had a right to apply the money to any other purpose than that for which it was intended, or that it was her sister who was to be the sufferer for her transgression.

The following morning, as Miss Courtley and she were taking their usual walk, they were met by a boy, who was carrying a cage with a number of young birds in it, which he had just taken from their nests. Julia was struck with the unhappy chirping of the poor little prisoners, and ran immediately to the boy, and offered to buy them.—No, (said the boy,) I will not sell them, for they are rare birds, and I expect to make a great deal of money by them.

How much? (asked Julia.) Half-a-guinea! (answered the boy.)

Oh! I will give you that much for them, (replied Julia:) if you will call at Lady Ann Stanley's, at one o'clock, you shall have half-a-guinea for them at once.—The boy of course readily agreed to do as he was desired, and Julia rejoined Miss Courtley, highly satisfied with her bargain.—Margaret must just wait a little for her gown, (said she to her governess, to whom she had before made known her intention of making amends to her maid for the injury she had done her.) I dare say it will not be very long before I get some more money to make up for the half-guinea I have spent, and you know it would have been very cruel to keep these poor birds from their mothers for the sake of half-a-guinea. Miss Courtley was too much engaged in contemplating her own

appearance, to pay proper attention to what her pupil was talking about, or else she would, perhaps, have endeavoured to convince Julia that she had been too hasty in making the bargain with the boy; for, since it was now impossible to restore the birds to their mothers, it would be a greater kindness to the little sufferers to let him keep them till they were able to fly, and then buy them of him, for the sake of setting them at liberty; and, as he made a business of rearing young birds, he was much more likely to know the proper way of treating them than any one to whose care she could consign them. But Miss Courtley contented herself with telling Julia that Lady Ann would be delighted with her humanity.

Elated with the idea of the praise she should receive, Julia was fully disposed to proceed in the manner she had begun, as soon as another opportunity presented itself. It was not long before she met with one: a poor blind beggar soon after accosted them, who was led by a little girl not much bigger than herself. Oh! look, Miss Courtley, (said she,) at that poor little half-starved girl, leading her blind father! How sickly she looks! What can we do for them?

Indeed, I do not know, my dear, (answered her governess,) for I have no purse with me.

And my money is at home, (said Julia, in a tone of great distress.)

We will call at your house, young lady, (said the man,) if you will tell us where it is, and thankful indeed I shall be for any little matter your ladyship may be pleased to give me; for I have five more children at home, and my wife is very ill: but that is not all, for our furniture was all seized upon to-

day for a debt I have been long owing, and, if it is sold off, there will be nothing for us but to be turned out of doors, for the landlord will then have no security for his rent.

How much is your debt? (asked Julia.)

Twenty shillings, my little lady, (answered the man.) A great deal more than I have any chance of ever possessing. No, but it is not, (replied Julia, with a glow of benevolent animation, which would have done credit to an older bosom;) I have that much at home; and, if you will call at Lady Ann Stanley's, in the afternoon, I will give it to you.

What time must I call, my lady? (asked the man.)—Whenever you choose after I get home: you may come about one o'clock, (answered Julia.)

The man went away, declaring that he believed she was an angel sent from heaven to save his wife and little ones from starving.

Happy in the thought of the relief she should have it in her power to give the poor family, Julia forgot that the money she had promised had already been more than once disposed of, and returned home with a benevolent satisfaction, which only needed the guiding hand of prudence to regulate and improve.

As soon as she entered the house, she was told that Lady Ann had given orders that she should be sent to her as soon as she had returned from her walk. Eager to obey the summons, that she might relate to her ladyship the occurrences of the morning, she flew to her own room, that Margaret might arrange her dress in proper order for appearing before company. Her maid met her with a smile. Well, Miss Julia, (said she,) I have been telling every body that

I have seen this morning, what a generous young lady I have, not like some that I know, who never care how they use their servants. But just because you got into a passion, which was only what you had a right to do, for Lady Ann gave you leave to do whatever you chose, you were going to buy me a handsome new gown,—for, a handsome one I was sure it would be, if it was bought with the money that you shewed me last night: I dare say you have been out buying it this morning: when will the shop-keeper send it home, think you, Miss Julia? I hope it will come soon, for I long to see it.

Julia, whose every wish was to oblige, much concerned at the disappointment which she was sure Margaret must experience at hearing that the gown was not yet bought, said, in a gentle tone, "Your gown is not bought yet, Margaret; but you shall have it very soon, for I know I had no right to behave as I did last night." Margaret's countenance fell immediately: she knew, if there was time for other temptations to come in the way, she had but a poor chance for her prize, and had placed all her hopes of success on the promptness of the action.

You need not look so grave, Margaret, (remonstrated Julia,) you shall have the gown, but only you must wait a little, for I could not help promising the money, that I meant to buy it with, to a poor blind man.

A poor blind man! (exclaimed Margaret;) what in the world does he need so much money for?

Oh, it is to save himself, his wife, and six little children, from starving, (replied Julia.)

I warrant he is a cheat, (said Margaret;) I will be bound for it he has told you a parcel of lies, and

he will not have the face to come to ask for the money, for fear he should be found out and punished.

Do you think so (said Julia)? If I thought that was the case, I would give you the money for your gown immediately, and you know you could buy it yourself, and then you would be sure to get one that you liked.—As she spoke, she went to the drawer where the money was deposited, and, unaccustomed for a moment to weigh her actions, had it in her hand for the purpose of giving it to her maid, when a servant came into the room to say that Lady Ann had enquired again for her, and desired her to come directly to her dressing-room, as Colonel St. John wished to see her before he went away. She flew off therefore like lightning, with the money in her hand, and was soon on the Colonel's knee, listening to his exclamations of admiration, and receiving his lavish caresses. It was not long before a servant came to say that a boy, whom Miss Frankland had desired to call at one o'clock, was come. Julia jumped off the Colonel's knee—"May I go to him, Lady Ann?" (asked she.)

Go to a poor boy, my love, what to do? (asked her ladyship.)—Julia then told the story of redeeming the little unfledged birds for half-a-guinea.

But where did you expect to get the money? (enquired Lady Ann.)

Oh, I have plenty of money, (answered Julia,) holding out the so often-condemned two guineas.

And where did you get all that?

Colonel St. John gave it to me yesterday to buy a doll for Isabella; but you know I need not buy it directly, and I will save up my money as fast as I can, to get the half-guinea back again. Will not you

give me leave to do that, Colonel St. John? (added she, looking at him with a most engaging look of sweetness.)

Yes, that I will, (cried the Colonel,) for that and every thing you do is delightful.

Dear little benevolent soul (exclaimed Lady Ann,) every action is the result of feeling and tenderness.

Brim full of pleasure at this unqualified praise, Julia ran off to perform her engagement with the bird-dealer. Not finding him at the street-door as she expected, she was about to seek him in the servants' hall, when the tone of an organ struck her ears, and, turning again towards the door, she perceived a Jew standing on the step, with a most elegant little organ in his hand, on which he was playing. Delighted both with the tone and appearance of the instrument, she ran back to look at it more closely. Dear, what a beautiful little organ, (cried she, as the man held it in such a position as to display it to advantage,) I never saw any thing so pretty in my life; and it is so small, that it would not be too heavy for me to carry about. Oh, no! it is made on purpose for young *peoples*, (said the man,) and is very *sheep* organ if you *vants* one.

Do you wish to sell it? (asked Julia.) You surely would not sell such a pretty little thing as it is.

Oh, I *does not vish* to sell it, (returned the Jew;) but I *vants* some *monish*, for I am very poor, very poor *inteed*.

What is the price of it? (asked Julia, her eyes still fixed upon the splendid toy.) It is very beautiful, I should like very much to have it, and then I could please every body so with the music: and, when I have a party, it would be so delightful to dance to it, (added she, as the man struck up

lively dancing tune, and she felt its enlivening influence through her whole frame.) What is the price of it? (again asked she.)

It is only four guineas (answered the owner, again changing the stops, and striking up another tune)—I *voud* not part with it for *dat,* but only I am *vanting* the *monish* so much.

But I have not four guineas, (said Julia,) I have only these two; and, as she spoke, she displayed her treasure.

Oh, I *vill* take *dem* two, and you can pay me *de oders ven* you *gets dem,* (said the Jew;)—and he held out his hand, whilst Julia,—the child of impulse,—immediately put the money into it; and, receiving the instrument, she was flying immediately to display her treasure, when the first objects she beheld, was the poor blind man coming along the lobby, through which a servant was conducting him to the servants' hall to wait for her, and the boy holding a cage full of birds, standing at a little distance from her. Thunderstruck at the sight, she immediately turned to tell the Jew that she repented of her bargain; but the man, conscious that it would not do for her to have time to examine her purchase more narrowly, was already out of sight. Her eyes then turned upon the organ, when she found that he had put a different instrument into her hand from that which she had admired in his. Motionless with confusion, shame, and disappointment, Julia was standing with her eyes fixed upon the paltry toy that she held in her hand, whilst the poor blind man, who had learned that the good young lady was near, stood in an attitude of patient expectation; and the boy, with bowing civility, held out the cage, expecting her to take it, and give him his promised money, when Lady

Ann, attended by the Colonel, appeared on the stairs. "Bless me! what is all this? (cried her ladyship.) Julia, my love, why do you look so much the picture of despair? And what company is this that you have with you?"

Julia, unaccustomed to reproof or disapprobation, had little difficulty in collecting her scattered senses, and relating the whole tale, which she did with perfect simplicity and frankness, whilst her feelings were at the same time sufficiently mortified at the embarrassments into which she had so foolishly plunged herself, to have received, had the opportunity been properly improved, a lesson which might have been serviceable to her through life; but she, unfortunately, was not in hands calculated to turn to advantage the favourable moment. "What a dear little extravagant wretch this is! (exclaimed Lady Ann, turning to Colonel St. John, as Julia finished her tale:) she disposes of money like a princess. It would be a thousand pities if she ever felt the want of it. She must not suffer from this little imprudence: it would be enough to lock up her generous heart for life, if she did. I must pay her debts for her, and leave it to time to teach her more prudence in contracting them."—So saying, her ladyship took out her purse, and, with infinite grace, gave the poor man his promised donation, and then discharged her debt to the bird-catcher; whilst the poor little birds were turned over to the servants, to suffer that misery which Julia's first impulse had been to rescue them from.

Margaret's gown and Isabella's doll should be bought, her ladyship said, the next day. But the Colonel (though inwardly determining that, if he were once master of her ladyship's liberal income, it

should not be so squandered away) admired her liberality, and bestowed all his compliments at that time. The next day, therefore, as no further praises were to be gained, the promises were forgotten; and Julia, not more thoughtful than her ladyship, soon forgot the whole matter, or at least only remembered it when Margaret gave a hint about her gown, when she promised again, and then forgot as usual.

And here we shall leave Julia for the present, and follow our little northern traveller on her journey to Edinburgh.

## CHAPTER III.

THE little Isabella was received with great kindness by the whole family of Mackenzies, who each strove, to the utmost of their power, to shew her every mark of hospitality and attention. It was received, however, with perfect indifference by the little stranger, who scarcely seemed to notice what was passing, but amused herself with eating sweetmeats, of which the gentleman, with whom she had travelled, had supplied her with a great quantity. Mrs. Mackenzie, fearful that the child would do herself an injury by loading her stomach with so many rich cakes, yet unwilling so soon to thwart her inclinations, hastened her to bed, on the plea of her being fatigued. When refreshed with a good night's sleep, she was in hopes that the little stranger would feel herself more at home, and better disposed to be amused by other things, which might divert her from the pleasure of eating,—the only one she seemed at present to have any relish for. Isabella made no objection to the

proposal, but took good care to have her basket of sweetmeats along with her, which she placed close by her bed-side. "Will they be safe here? (asked she of the servant, who was undressing her;) is there no fear of any one coming and taking them away?"

Oh, quite safe, you may depend upon it, (replied Ann:) they are your's, and nobody will think of touching them.

But those little boys that I saw in the drawing room like sweetmeats, I dare say, (replied Isabella.)

I have no doubt they do, but if they liked them ever so well, they would never think of touching what is not their own, or what is not given to them. Besides, nobody comes into this room but myself, and little master Henry, who is in the other bed there, and my mistress, who always looks at all the children the last thing she does before she goes to bed herself.—Satisfied with this assurance, Isabella laid herself down very contentedly in bed, and was soon fast asleep.

What a pretty little girl she is, mamma, (said Frederick,) when Isabella left the room. What beautiful eyes she has?

But she very seldom raises them to let them be seen, (said Douglas.) She seems to cast them within as much as possible, that she may contemplate her own dear little person, which she appears to think the only object worth noticing.

I think, however, for all that, (returned Frederick,) that she has a very pleasant countenance; and I have no doubt, that, under my mamma's management, she will soon be a very nice little girl. I dare say she has never had any pains taken with her. Julia was the favourite, and this poor little thing has never known what it was to be noticed.

I hope you will prove right in your conjectures, my dear, (said his mother,) much pleased with her son's charitable conclusions. We must endeavour to find the way to her heart, and then I shall not despair of making something of her, for she does not look as though she wanted abilities.

Oh, no, mamma! that she does not, (said Frederick, with animation;) she only needs to be drawn out, just like the convolvoluses in my garden. When the sun does not shine upon them, they are all curled in so close, that one could have no idea what pretty flowers they are; but as soon as they feel the warmth of his beams, they unfold their leaves, and display their beautiful colours.

Let us take care, then, my dear boy, (replied Mrs. Mackenzie, delighted with the generous warmth with which her son spoke,) to shed the rays of kindness on this little helpless orphan.

The next morning, as soon as Isabella appeared in the breakfast-room, Douglas, who had felt the night before that he had been less charitable to the little stranger than he ought to have been, was most sedulous in his attentions towards her. He ran to bring a chair for her to the breakfast table; handed her the nicest looking bun that he could see; and set her little basket, which she watched with jealous care, close by her side. Isabella took little notice of his attentions, except now and then turning her full-enquiring eyes upon him, as if to convince herself that he was not preparing to play some cheat upon her; but, when satisfied that that was not the case, she spoke her "thank you" with more cordiality than she had expressed since she entered the house.

Her stomach was too much cloyed with the quantity of sweets that she had ate the night before, to

relish her breakfast, which Mrs. Mackenzie took care to remark the cause of, when she declined eating any more, and said she had not been hungry. She had good sense enough to take the hint; and, instead of beginning again to the sweetmeats after breakfast, she only stood turning them over, and counting how many she had.—I wish I had a safe place to leave this basket in (said she, as Frederick and Douglas invited her to go with them into the garden).

It will be quite safe on this table (said Douglas).

No! but I do not like to leave it there (answered Isabella).

I will ask mamma to lock it up for you, (said Frederick;) and away he ran to seek his mother, whom he soon brought back with him.

But you will give it me again? (said Isabella, in a tone of hesitation, still keeping back the basket, for which Mrs. Mackenzie held out her hand.) You will not cheat me of it, and give it to any body else?

No, my dear little girl, (answered Mrs. Mackenzie,) you may depend upon it I will not cheat you of it. What makes you think of such a thing?

Because they used to do so at home (replied the child); they used to give my things to Julia, because, they said, she was generous, and deserved them better, for she would give any thing away that she had. But then, she got a great deal more given to her than I did.

Shocked at the partiality and want of management which had been shewn in the treatment of these two little girls, Mrs. Mackenzie renewed her resolutions to do her utmost to erase the effects of her improper education, as fast as possible, from the mind of this little creature, whom she looked upon as an object of compassion, as much from the injury she had suf-

fered, whilst under her mother's care, as from the unprotected state in which the death of that parent had left her. The gentleness of Mrs. Mackenzie's manner could not but gain confidence even from Isabella's suspicious mind, and she ventured to deposit her basket in her hands, after receiving a positive promise that it should be returned whenever she should wish for it; and this done, she accompanied the two boys into the garden. Having lived constantly in the town, and in that town having been almost entirely confined to the nursery, Isabella had little idea of plants or flowers; so that, when the boys shewed her their gardens, and asked her if she should like to have one for her own, which she could work in, and do what she liked with, she replied, she should like very much to have a garden, but she did not understand what to do with it. But I will dig it for you, (said Frederick,) and tell you, as well as I can, how to manage it. And I (said Douglas) will give you some seeds to sow in it; and I am sure my mamma will let you have some flowers out of her garden to plant in it.

But one cannot eat either seeds or flowers, (answered Isabella,) and I do not care for a garden, unless it has something in it that one can eat.

But (said Frederick), if mamma will give you a piece of ground which joins the end of this strawberry-bed, you will soon have something in your garden that is good to eat.

This interested Isabella's strongest passion, for the love of eating was the most powerful propensity that she felt; and she immediately expressed great delight at the idea of having a garden that she could call her own, and out of which she might eat all the fruit as it ripened, without any one having a right to

interfere with her. Application was therefore made to Mrs. Mackenzie for the piece of ground fixed upon by Frederick; which being as soon granted, in a very short time Isabella saw herself in possession of a garden, nicely dug, and filled with various plants and seeds, and, above all, a neat little strawberry-bed, the plants of which were just beginning to put forward their blossoms. Frederick told her that she must water her plants every evening for some time, if the weather continued dry, till their roots were struck into the earth; and Douglas offered her the use of his little watering-pot for that purpose. The time was so fully employed, that it was long before Isabella remembered the basket of sweetmeats; when she did, however, she hastened into the house, and, going up to Mrs. Mackenzie, said, in a tone which bespoke the revival of her doubts, "You know you promised that you would give me my basket of sweetmeats as soon as ever I asked for it."

I did so, (replied her aunt, going immediately to the closet where she had locked up the basket, and gave it to her;) but I would advise you not to eat so many of them at one time, as you did yesterday, for fear of hurting yourself again. But the caution did not prove so effectual this time as it had done in the morning, when aided by the unpleasant feeling of an overloaded stomach; and she began to eat the contents of the basket with great eagerness, without offering Frederick or Douglas the smallest morsel in return for their kindness to her, or appearing conscious of the engaging tricks of the little Henry, who, too young to have any objection to begging, played off a hundred little antics by way of tempting her to make him a sharer in her enjoyment. I wish Henry might be taken out of the room, mamma,

(said Douglas, sorry for the little boy's solicitude, and what he knew would be his disappointment).

No, my dear, (answered his mother,) it is better that he should learn to see people in the possession of things that he likes, without always expecting to be made a partaker in them.

Convinced that no lesson would do for Isabella but the dear-bought one of experience, Mrs. Mackenzie left her to take her own course; and it was not long before she had devoured her whole store, nor much longer before she began to feel the consequences of her gluttony; for she soon became so sick as to make it necessary for her to drink a great quantity of camomile tea, which Mrs. Mackenzie was not sorry to find she did with great reluctance and disgust. The lesson, however, was a useful one; and, as it was the first time she had ever been her own mistress over so many good things, it was also the last of her using her liberty with so little discretion.

I wish you had told me, aunt, (said she, the next morning, as she sat by Mrs. Mackenzie,) that the sweetmeats would have made me so sick, and then I would not have ate so many of them at once.

If you will recollect yourself, my dear, (answered her aunt,) you will remember that I did tell you so, and advised you, as earnestly as I could, not to eat them all at one time.

Yes, I know you did say something of that kind, but I did not mind it then, for I thought you only said so because you wished me to give some of them away.

When you know me better, (said Mrs. Mackenzie, smiling at the bluntness of the speech,) I hope you will believe that I never think of advising you but for your own good.

Oh, I believe that now, (replied Isabella,) for I

am sure you are very kind to me, and so is my uncle, and so are Frederick and Douglas, and I like you all very much,—for not one of you ever called me "a little greedy thing," or "glutton," when I had made myself ill with eating. So I will never eat too much of any thing again, when you advise me not.

The convolvuluses are beginning to unfold, Frederick (said Douglas to his brother, as they heard, from the other end of the room, where they were with their father at their lessons, what passed between their mother and her little companion).

I had no doubt but they would, (replied his brother), for I was sure, if she had a heart, my mamma would find her way to it.

And so was I (returned Douglas); my only fear was, that nature had made a mistake, and given her nothing but a stomach, and then, you know, not even my mamma could have done any good.

Douglas, (said Mr. Mackenzie,) I wish you would check that turn for satire which you so often discover. It is a dangerous weapon, which may often make you enemies, but will never gain you a friend. —I am very happy, however, to see you both so sensible of your excellent mother's worth. Your confidence in her power over this little girl, is a most satisfactory proof of your having yourselves felt its influence.

A servant here entered the room, to say that Mr. Boulé, the dancing-master, was come. Nothing could be more striking than the contrast which the two brothers exhibited on receiving this information. Douglas started up with all the glee imaginable, and capered about, whilst putting up his books, in anticipation of the pleasure he was going to enjoy; whilst Frederick, who, in general, was all alacrity in set-

ting about any thing that he had to do, hung over the table, as if desirous of prolonging the time as much as possible before he was obliged to go to receive his dancing-lesson. Come, Frederick, (said his father,) move more briskly: one would suppose, from your manner, that you were going to sleep instead of to dance.

I wish I might sleep whilst the others were dancing, (answered Frederick,) for I hate to dance.

I think the consciousness of your own folly would rather disturb your repose, however (returned Mr. Mackenzie).

But, why is it folly not to like dancing, papa? (asked Frederick,) I am sure there is nothing very clever or sensible in it.

Because it is a mark of folly, not to be willing to make use of every advantage that fortune has thrown in your way. Learning to dance will assist you in acquiring a graceful management of your person; and, as I hope you will always have too much sense to indulge in it improperly, it may often be a source of innocent amusement to you in after-life.

I do not think it ever will, for, if ever I am a learned man, which I hope I shall be some time or other, I shall have a great many better ways of spending my time than practising airs and graces.

The principal part of it, I hope you will (answered Mr. Mackenzie); but the airs and graces, as you call them, are very necessary, for the want of them is apt to bring learning into disrepute, by making it appear stiff and awkward; besides, it is not well for the mind to be always on the stretch. There are times when it is absolutely necessary for it to unbend itself, and it is frequently very desirable that it should do so; for the mind, like the body, is

strengthened and refreshed by rest, and returns to its labours with greater vigour after a moderate degree of relaxation.

But there are many other kinds of relaxation that I like a great deal better, and that are far less effeminate than skipping about in set forms. There is walking, and gardening, and riding, and many other much pleasanter ways of taking exercise. I began to read the Life of Sir William Jones last night, who, I have often heard you say, was one of the greatest characters you ever knew; and he spent his time, whilst at school, almost entirely between his studies and his garden; and I should like to do as much the same as ever I can.

That I can have no possible objection to (replied his father); and will bargain with you, that, when you have finished reading his Life, if you still desire to give over dancing, I will indulge you, by allowing you to follow your own inclinations. For, though I think it very desirable that you should learn to dance, as well as to do every thing else that is ever likely to be of use, or an innocent source of pleasure to you, I do not consider it of such first-rate importance as to force you to it so much against your wishes.

Highly pleased with this agreement, Frederick went to join his dancing-master with greater pleasure than he had ever done before. Their dance too was pleasanter,—for the addition of Isabella to their party made it more lively; but his principal pleasure arose from the hope that it was the last lesson of the kind he should receive, as he was determined to be very industrious, and get through the whole of Sir William's Life, before the next dancing-lesson, when, he had no doubt, he should still be in

the same mind,—and he was very sure his father would be as good as his word. The next morning, however, he met his father with a smile, which seemed to express the recollection of some joke that was passing in his mind; and being asked by him to explain it,—" I am smiling, papa, to think how nicely you took me in yesterday about dancing."

Took you in! (answered his father:) that is certainly not a right word. I made no bargain with you that I am not still ready to stand to.

Yes; but then, papa, you knew all the time that Sir William Jones, even after he was a man, was at a great deal of expense and trouble to learn to dance.

I did so, (said Mr. Mackenzie;) and was therefore in hopes that you would have good sense enough to be convinced, that your time was of less importance, and it was much better to acquire the art whilst you were young than put it off till later in life, when it would be much more difficult to attain. You see Sir William Jones, even after his fame was considerably spread as a scholar, did not think it beneath him to join in an innocent amusement, and make himself pleasant to his friends. His wish was to be a gentleman; not, as the term is often understood, by becoming a vain, conceited coxcomb, but by making himself master of every useful and polite accomplishment. Much as I admire Sir William's great learning, and amazing attainments, I admire his amiable manners, his upright principles, and excellent heart much more. Keep these, therefore, strictly in view, my dear boy, in studying his character, and I have only to wish that you may make a close copy.

I ought to do more (replied Frederick); for,

though he had so good a mother, I am better off still,—for I have both my parents.

But there is another consideration, which may, perhaps, do more than equalize your situations; that is, the extraordinary talents which he possessed from nature. You have very good abilities,—and will have much to answer for at the great day of account, if you do not make a good use of them: but such as his are seldom to be met with. I am far, however, from wishing to damp your ardour; for, in the attainment of virtue and knowledge, it is no matter how high your ambition aspires. "Always aim at the eagle, (was the advice of Dr. Johnson,) though you may not be able to reach higher than the sparrow."

The sound of a scuffling noise in the lobby now broke off the conversation; and Mr. Mackenzie, opening the door of the breakfast-room to see what was the matter, observed Isabella struggling very hard with Henry, who, though so much younger, was no bad match for her in strength.

What is the matter? (asked Mr. Mackenzie, going forward.)

He will have my slate, (said Isabella;) and he has no right to it.

I want to make houses (said the little boy, still struggling to get the slate out of his cousin's hands, who, however, kept her hold most tenaciously).

Henry will be papa's good little boy, I hope, and wait till his cousin, Isabella, gives him the slate, and not pull it from her (said Mr. Mackenzie, in a gentle persuasive tone).

Please, let Henry have it! (said the little boy, ceasing to use force, and speaking in a supplicating voice.)

He will not hurt it, (added Mr. Mackenzie,) and you will soon get it again.

No! but I do not like to let him have it (returned Isabella): it is my slate, and I like to keep my own things.

Mr. Mackenzie, finding that Isabella was not to be prevailed upon to lend her slate to the little petitioner, contrived to draw his attention to another object, and Isabella was left in undisputed possession of her property. What a pity it is, that she is so selfish (said Frederick, who had stood by, a silent spectator of what had passed): she is a nice little girl, and I should like her very much, if she were not so selfish.

Some weeks afterwards, as Isabella sat working beside her aunt, and talking about her garden, of which she had become exceedingly fond, particularly since the closely-watched strawberries had began to swell, and change their dark green hue, which seemed to promise her a long-anticipated feast. —How nice it will be, (said she,) to think that they are all my own, and that nobody will have any right to touch them but myself; and I know that nobody will take them from me, for it is not here as it used to be at home. Whenever I had any thing there that I liked, they used to watch for an opportunity of getting it from me, to give it to Julia, and then they laughed at me when I was angry; but here, although I do not watch my things half so much, I have never had any of them taken from me. But, aunt, (added she, dropping her work, and looking earnestly in Mrs. Mackenzie's face,) I wish I could learn not to be selfish; for I heard Frederick say, the day that I refused to lend Henry my slate, that he should like me very much if I were not so selfish;

and I should like Frederick to love me, for I am sure I love him. Can you tell me, aunt, what I must do not to be selfish?

If you will take your work up again, (said Mrs. Mackenzie,) I will endeavour to tell you as well as I can; but, if we are to have much conversation, and you sit idle all the time, you will not have finished your work by the time I am ready to go out to walk.

But I cannot both work and talk (said Isabella).

That is only a bad habit (answered her aunt). If you accustom yourself to do both at one time, it will soon become easy to you, and your work will go much more pleasantly forward.

Well, I will try (said Isabella, again beginning to sew); and now, if you please, will you tell me how I must learn not to be selfish?

By always trying to do what you think will oblige, and accommodate those around you (answered Mrs. Mackenzie).

But then, aunt, they sometimes want me to do things that I do not like myself; and then, you know, it is no wonder I refuse.

But a kind, obliging little girl would have more pleasure, often, in giving up her own wishes to gratify a friend, than in indulging her inclinations.

Then, ought I always to give whatever I have away, and never keep any thing to myself?

No! that would be extravagance. It would be foolish to give away what it would be an injury to yourself to part with. But, if you have an opportunity of obliging a friend, or doing a charitable action, by giving what it only needs a little self-denial to part with, that I should call generosity.

Then, if I give any thing away, will you promise

me to make it up to me directly? Suppose, instead of only lending my slate to Henry, the next time he asks for it, I were to give it him for his own,—may I depend upon your giving me another immediately?

I might as well give Henry the slate myself at once, (said Mrs. Mackenzie, smiling,) for you know it would, in fact, be me who gave it,—not you. Besides, the loan of the slate would just do as well as the gift for him: it would be unnecessary for you to part with it altogether.

But, when Julia used to give any thing away, mamma always made it up to her again; because, she said, she deserved to be rewarded for her generosity.

That is not the kind of reward, however, (said Mrs. Mackenzie,) that I should wish you to accustom yourself to look for. If you really wish to shew your gratitude to your friends, and to imitate that kind of conduct which you yourself so much admire in them, you will find a sufficient reward in the satisfaction which you will feel at seeing the pleasure you have given, and in knowing that you have done what is right and kind.

Then, suppose, (said Isabella, again, in the earnestness of her discourse, dropping her work,) suppose, aunt, in return for Douglas's kindness in helping me with my garden, that, instead of giving him the young shoot off my beautiful rose-tree, which, he told me, would not hurt the tree to take off at the latter end of the year, I were to pull up the whole tree, and give it to him, without any body promising me any thing in return: what would you think of me then?

I should think you a very foolish, extravagant little girl (answered her aunt); for you would deprive

yourself of the tree very unnecessarily, as the young shoot would satisfy Douglas just as well; and would run a great risk of rendering the tree useless, in future, to both you and him;—for it would very likely kill it to be moved at present, when it is just coming into flower. Thus, you see, you would rob yourself,—doDouglas no kindness,—and put it out of your power to oblige another friend with a shoot at some other time. One of the best means of enabling us to be generous, is to avoid wasting what we have. But now, you see, I have finished my work, and you have been sitting so long idle that you are still far behind.

Oh! but I shall soon have done, if you will be so good as to wait a little for me, aunt.

I will oblige you this time, (answered Mrs. Mackenzie,) because I see that you have made an effort to conquer a bad habit; and I do not expect that you should succeed all at once. To shew a willingness to oblige your friends, by attending to their wishes, is always the surest way of obtaining a similar favour in return.

Isabella's fingers now went with great speed, whilst her mind was busily employed in turning over the new ideas which she had gained.

## CHAPTER IV.

Neglect and bad management were observable in almost every thing that Isabella did; and Mrs. Mackenzie became, every day, more sensible of the care and attention which would be necessary to wean her from the improper habits she had contracted. She was exceedingly indolent and indifferent about learning: by way, therefore, of exciting her to greater industry, her kind aunt determined to adopt the plan of rewarding her with tickets, whenever she deserved it, and of purchasing them of her again, at so much a dozen.

Mrs. Mackenzie was not at all fond of the plan of giving children money; but, as Isabella had already been taught to wish for it, she deemed it most advisable to gratify her wishes in a moderate degree, and endeavour to put her into a way of spending it properly. For some time, however, Isabella's money went towards the gratification of her palate only; and, though she had frequently, of late, prevailed upon herself to part with a small portion of what she bought to her cousins, her aunt was concerned to see her indulge so bad a propensity as gluttony; and watched for an opportunity of prevailing upon her to appropriate her money to a better purpose, by saving it up into larger sums, and purchasing something that would be a more lasting source of pleasure to her.

At length, Isabella, who was very fond of amusing

herself in an evening with colouring prints, or her own rough designs, whilst Frederick and Douglas were engaged with their drawing, was disappointed, by the absence of her cousins from home, of the use of one of their paint-boxes; and lamented bitterly the want of her favourite amusement. If you had one of your own, (said Mrs. Mackenzie,) you would not be subject to such disappointments.

No, indeed, I should not (replied Isabella): I wish, aunt, you would be so good as to buy me one.

I would do so with pleasure, if you were not able to purchase one for yourself: but, when that is the case, I think it is unnecessary that I should do it for you.

Oh! I cannot buy one, you know; I have not any money.

But you may easily get enough for the purpose; for, if you choose to be diligent and attentive, you can get a great many tickets; and you have only to save your money, instead of buying rich things to eat, which are very bad for you.

Well, then, I think I will try to keep my money; for I should like very much to have a box of paints of my own, instead of having to borrow Frederick's and Douglas's, though they are so willing to lend them.

I would advise you, then, (said Mrs. Mackenzie,) by way of helping your resolution, not to attempt to keep the money yourself, but let me take care of it for you. I will keep an account of every dozen tickets you give me, and then pay you the money for them all at once, when you have got enough to buy your box.

To this Isabella readily agreed, saying, she was not afraid now of being cheated, as she used to be. She applied herself with so much diligence, and was

so careful to keep her things all in order, and in their right places, that it was not long before she found herself in possession of money sufficient for the desired purchase; and she had never felt herself so happy in her life, as the first evening that she sat down to make use of it.

How nice it is (said she,) to have a box of one's own to go to, without having to wait till Frederick or Douglas come to lend me their's; and to have to think that, perhaps, they may not choose to lend it this evening,—though that never was the case; yet I never could help thinking that it might happen some time.

It is, indeed, a pleasant thing to be independent, (said Mrs. Mackenzie,) however kind our friends may be in assisting us.

I wonder (said Isabella,) if my sister Julia has a box of paints. I dare say, she would like one: do not you, aunt?

Yes, I do, indeed; and, if I were you, I should like to send her one on her birth-day, which, you know, will be very soon.

And so I should, too. Will you buy one for me to send to her?

But I have no more money of yours at present, you know.

But you have plenty of your own.

You must recollect, however, that, if I buy it with my own money, it will be my present. But, if you were to save your money again, as you did for this, and buy her one with it, the gift would then be all your own.

Oh! I think, if I were to do that, (exclaimed Isabella, artlessly,) I should be very generous indeed! Would you not all admire me very much?

Perhaps, (replied Mrs. Mackenzie, smiling,) the more you expected and required our admiration, the less we should be inclined to give it.

Nay, that would be ill-natured,—that would be quite cross! (remonstrated Isabella.)

If your object is to shew your sister kindness and attention, it will be a sufficient reward to you to know, that you have done what is right and amiable, and that you deserve to be loved and esteemed.

Do you think I can ever be good and amiable? (asked Isabella, with great simplicity.)

Certainly I do: any body may be good who chooses.

But, mamma used to say, nothing would ever make me amiable or pleasant, because I was selfish; and that nobody would ever love me.

Your mamma was, I hope, mistaken. You have only to be determined to be good, and it is quite in your own power; and then all good people will love you.

Will they? (cried the little girl, animation beaming in her eyes,) and will you love me?—and will my uncle, and Frederick, and Douglas, all love me?

Yes, my dear little girl, we shall all love you; and, what is far better, the great and good Being who made you, and through whose kindness you are now alive and well, will both love and reward you, if you are good.

Will He take notice of such a little girl as I am; and care whether I am good or not?

Yes, my love; He notices every body and every thing, and is kind and good to all: even that little fly, that is creeping along the table, is under His protection; and He furnishes it with all that is necessary to make its little life happy. Nothing gives Him so

much pleasure as to see His creatures happy; and, unless they are good, they never can be so.

Mrs. Mackenzie now put an end to the conversation, thinking that Isabella's feelings were sufficiently excited, and that it would be better to leave her to reflect upon what had been said. That she had done so, with considerable advantage, Mrs. Mackenzie was convinced the next time she brought her a dozen tickets; for, on her offering her the money, she said, "No, keep it for me, if you please, aunt; for I wish to save it till I have enough to buy a box for Julia." Mrs. Mackenzie further remarked, with pleasure, that she had not spoken of her intention even to her cousins; and she felt the gratifying assurance, from this little token of improvement, that she should be rewarded for her care and attention, by seeing her niece one day become an amiable and virtuous woman.

Isabella was prevented from getting the money for her sister's box of paints, in as short a time as she had gained her own, by an interruption which occurred in her usual course of lessons, on account of an illness with which Frederick was at this time attacked; during which his mother devoted herself to him with unremitting assiduity. Though prevented, however, for so long a time from making use of the reward of her labours for her own more immediate gratification, Isabella never expressed the slightest degree of impatience, or any wish to change her intention; but was anxious and solicitous for Frederick's recovery. She often begged to be allowed to go and sit with him, and help to amuse him: but, though sure that her company would be very acceptable to the invalid, who was much attached to her, Mrs. Mackenzie forbad her going near his

room, from a fear that there might, perhaps, be some degree of infection in his complaint.

One day, Douglas, who had been employed to gather those strawberries he could find ripe, came into the room with a small leaf full, and said, those were all that he could get. I am sorry for it, (answered his mother,) for they are the only things that your brother eats with any satisfaction. Isabella, who heard this, did not say a word, but hastened into the garden, searched her little bed with great diligence, and soon collected a very nice leaf of strawberries,—the ripening of which she had watched daily, for many weeks, with the idea of the pleasure she should have when they were ready to be eaten; and, taking them to Mrs. Mackenzie,—"Aunt, (said she,) will you be so good as to take these strawberries to Frederick, with my love, and tell him that I hope they will do him good." "I am sure they will, (said Mrs. Mackenzie, kissing her niece with delight,) they will be most acceptable, as a mark of your affection."

My aunt is right (thought Isabella, as Mrs. Mackenzie left the room); it is very delightful to be good. How sweet it was to be kissed so kindly by her for doing right. I am sure I should not have had half so much pleasure from eating the strawberries myself.

At length Frederick was restored to health, and Isabella renewed her usual course of employment, which soon put her in possession of the necessary sum; and she found herself mistress of it just in time to get her present sent to her sister by her birth-day. Mrs. Mackenzie gave her leave to go with a servant to purchase the box herself; and, with he money in her hand, she set off for that purpose.

They had not, however, got far, before the sound of a woman's voice, uttering bitter lamentations, induced Isabella to look into the house that they were near, the door of which stood half open; when she saw a woman wringing her hands in an agony of distress, and a little girl standing beside her, crying piteously. Isabella, almost instinctively, went forward to see what was the matter.

Oh! we shall never get the better of it (cried the woman): we shall all be ruined.

What has happened to you? (asked the servant, who was with Isabella.)

Alas! (answered the woman, as well as her grief would let her speak,) we are come to a loss that we shall never get the better of. I work for a person that sells ready-made clothes, and had just finished what I had been working at, as hard as ever I could, all the week, and had desired my little girl to take them home,—expecting to get in return as much money as would buy bread for us all; but she, seeing a poor old man who had fallen down, and could not get up again without help, put her bundle on the step of a door, and went to try to raise him up; but, when she turned round again to take up her bundle, it was gone; and the person that employed me has refused to give me any more work till I can pay for the things that are lost; and they come to more than I can make up, if I were to work as hard as ever I could for twelve months to come.

I hope (said Isabella,) you were not angry at your little girl for being so good to the poor man.

No, miss, (replied the woman,) I was not angry at her for trying to help the man, for I always wish my children to be ready to do a good turn

whenever they can; but she ought to have been more careful where she put the bundle: she has brought a misfortune upon us that we shall never get the better of; for, if I work myself to death, I can never pay for the things that are lost, and feed my family into the bargain.

What is the value of them? (asked Isabella.)

Half-a-guinea, miss (answered the woman, in a tone of despondency).

Isabella's feelings were touched, and she looked at the money that she had in her hand, as if in hopes that it had increased since she received it from her aunt; but it was still the same six shillings, and she could not, by looking at it, make it any more. I have only six shillings, (said she,) but I will give you these now, and the rest as soon as ever I get as much.

The woman's countenance at first brightened up, and she expressed her gratitude in the strongest terms of thankfulness; but, at last, seeming to recollect something which damped her pleasure, —Perhaps, miss, (said she,) your friends may be angry at you for giving so much money away.

No, (answered Isabella,) it is my own; and I may do what I choose with it: nobody will find any fault with me.

This assertion being confirmed by the servant, the woman took the money with the strongest marks of delight and gratitude; and Isabella returned home, perfectly satisfied in her own mind with what she had done. Frederick and Douglas, as soon as she entered the room where they were, hastened to her to see her purchase. I have not bought one (said she, in answer to their enquiries); and, on Mrs. Mackenzie's expressing surprise at the circum-

stance, she told her adventure in a plain and simple style, without seeming to have any wish to excite admiration for what she had done. In fact, the desire of admiration had not been at all a part of her motive: she had been influenced purely by a desire to do the poor woman a service; and no other consequence had been considered by her.

Then you must write another letter to Julia (said Mrs. Mackenzie); for, you know, you mentioned, in that which you finished to-day, the present that you were going to send to her.

But I mean still to send it, aunt (replied Isabella).

How can you manage to do so, my dear, when you have no money?

You know, aunt, that my box is scarcely a bit worse than new; so I will send her that, and wait till I can afford to buy another for myself.

Now, that is indeed being generous, (exclaimed Douglas, clasping his arms about the neck of his little cousin, in an ecstasy of admiration),—that is being really and truly generous.

But you shall not be deprived of your favourite amusement, (cried Frederick, in the same spirit of approbation)—you shall have my box to keep yourself, and make use of whenever you please, till you are able to get one of your own.

No, my dear Frederick, (answered his mother,) I must protest against that arrangement. Isabella has acted a very humane and generous part throughout the whole of this affair, and deserves to be esteemed and loved for it; but, by preventing her from bearing the sacrifice which she has made, you would deprive her of the greatest part of the pleasure; for she could no longer feel that this act of charity was

wholly her own. Let her, therefore, enjoy it entirely herself; and do you imitate her example in other instances, without encroaching upon her privileges in this.

Thus did Mrs. Mackenzie judiciously endeavour to guard against her niece's falling into an opposite error, and becoming thoughtlessly extravagant, with the expectation of the deficiency always being made up to her; convinced, at the same time, that, by accustoming her occasionally to a little self-denial, she was teaching her a lesson which would be useful to her through life. She saw, with pleasure, that Isabella not only maintained her resolution of making up the poor woman's loss, but that she had so much command over herself, as steadily to refuse the use of either of her cousin's boxes; saying that, if she could get the loss so easily made up, it might, perhaps, make her less industrious in working for one of her own.

We will now close our chapter with a letter from Frederick to Isabella, on her birth-day; which will serve to shew the progress the little girl made in the affections of her new friends.

### Frederick Mackenzie to Isabella Frankland.

*(On her birth-day, with a present of a microscope.)*

My dear Isabella,

The strawberries, which you sent me when I was ill, were the best and sweetest I ever tasted. I wish I had any thing as grateful and pleasant to give you in return on this birth-day morning. I have nothing, however, to offer of any value, except your kindness, (of which I hope you will receive it as a token,)

should give value to this little miscroscope. It is a very useful little instrument, and will enable you to see the smallest objects distinctly; and can magnify any thing but my affection for you. I most sincerely wish you many happy birth-days; but would not have them to arrive too quickly, for fear they should in time bring that day which is to take you from us. I love my uncle Darnley very much, and should like exceedingly to see him here again; only that I am afraid his coming, and your going, would be very nearly connected.

Douglas desires me to say, that he hopes you will accept the little tin box for preserving flowers, which he has put beside the miscroscope, with his kindest love; but, as he does not like letter-writing, he has determined to let mine do for both: for, all that *I* have said, *he* thinks. He will join me, too, with heartfelt sincerity, in saying, how much we have all been pleased with the faithfulness with which you have performed your promise to the poor woman; and your steadiness in denying yourself any pleasure that you were not quite sure you had a right to.

We both hope to see you, one day or other, just such a woman as our dear mamma is; and a kinder wish, than that such may really be the case, need not be expressed for you even by,

Your affectionate cousin,

FREDERICK MACKENZIE.

## CHAPTER V.

### Captain Darnley to Mrs. Mackenzie.

My dear sister,

After the amazing revolutions which have taken place in the political world, you have, no doubt, been expecting, for some time, my arrival in my native country, and will not therefore be surprised to hear, that I landed yesterday at Portsmouth, and set off immediately for Lady Ann Stanley's; for I was anxious to see, as soon as possible, some of my family, after so long an absence. Though Julia's letters have regularly bespoken the gradual progress of her mind, from a child to a girl, and from a girl, I may say, to a woman, I had yet never accustomed myself to bring her to my imagination, but as the playful child I had left her; and could scarcely therefore persuade myself that I was not imposed upon, when my ward was introduced to me, in the form of a beautiful and elegant young woman; and it was not till I had recognized some of her sweet smiles, and engaging expressions of countenance, that I could be fully convinced she was the same Julia I had left ten years ago. She is every thing that I could have wished to see her; and does Lady Ann's care and attention great credit. I wish you may have met with as full a reward in Isabella; and, indeed, I have little doubt that she too is a very fine

girl, for I have always had great satisfaction from her letters: but still it is not to be supposed, that, where there was so much to make up, she could ever arrive at her sister's excellence, who had so much from nature to begin with. I am persuaded, however, that she is both a very good and very pleasant girl, or else she would not be such a favourite with all of you as she appears, from your letters, to be. As to Frederick, she seems with him to have rivalled Cicero and Demosthenes, and all the rest of the old gentlemen, for he never knows how to drop the subject when he begins to talk of her. I dare say, I should not know my two old favourites again, if I were to see them: they were two uncommonly fine manly lads.—I hope you did not keep them so long tied to your apron-string as to spoil them, or else you would have a great sin to answer for. I find, however, that you have at last sent them from home; and that they are now in the way, at the university, of seeing a little of the world. It would have given me great pleasure to have paid you a visit at Edinburgh, after my ten years' banishment; but at present it is impossible. I have business with government which must not be neglected, and which will oblige me to be in London in the course of a few days. I have come home at a very fortunate time for Julia, as Lady Ann is just about to reward Colonel St. John's perseverance, by bestowing her hand upon him; and, when her ladyship is no longer sole mistress of her property, it would not be so pleasant to my little girl to be dependent upon her. I intend, therefore, to have her to join me in London, as soon as ever I have got a house ready to receive her; and shall, at the same time, call upon you to render up your charge;—for it is full time that the

sisters should know a little of one another. I say nothing about your paying me a visit, because I am sure if you can you will do it, without any assurances from me of what pleasure it would give me to see you. I had almost forgotten to tell you, that I have engaged Miss Courtley, at Lady Ann's recommendation, to be with the girls as a kind of *chaperone;* for her ladyship thinks, and I am certainly of the same opinion, that they are too young to be without a female companion older than themselves. She is to have the same salary continued to her that she has hitherto received from Lady Ann, and is to have equally the care of both the girls. I have no doubt, as she is a most accomplished woman, that she will be a great acquisition to Isabella, as I understand you have persevered in your resolution of neither sending her to school nor of having a governess for her at home. For, though you are as capable as any governess can be of teaching her, if you had time, it is not to be supposed but that, with your engagements, she must necessarily fall short of her sister's acquirements, who has been, for so many years, Miss Courtley's sole object. I will write again as soon as I am ready to receive Isabella in London; and, in the mean time, with kind love to all your family, both those whom I have seen, and those who have made their appearance in this best of worlds, since I left England,

I remain,

Your affectionate brother,

HENRY DARNLEY.

## Captain Darnley to Isabella Frankland.

My dear Isabella,

I have just had a letter from Julia, saying, that she and Miss Courtley intend to be in London on Sunday week, for I am now settled in a very pleasant house in Harley Street: and, as your aunt and you both say that you will hold yourself in readiness to set off on a day's notice, I hope you will be able to arrive here on the same day, when it will give me great pleasure to receive both together. I am not surprised at your uncle Mackenzie's kindness in engaging himself to be your escort to town;—for, as you say, one ought never to wonder at any thing good or kind from him. I wish your aunt could have been of the party likewise; but your little favourites being ill of the hooping-cough, is a sufficient reason for her declining, to those who know what an attentive mother she is.

I hope, my dear Isabella, I need not say any thing to you about meeting your sister with kindness; for, even if you were less disposed towards it than I am sure you are, her affectionate manners would win upon your heart at first sight. Miss Courtley, too, you will of course prepare yourself to treat with respect and attention, as the person that is to supply your aunt's place to you, at least for some time to come. In the hope of our meeting shortly, I am, my dear Isabella,

Your affectionate uncle,

Henry Darnley.

---

Well, my love, what does your uncle say? (asked Mrs. Mackenzie, as Isabella finished reading her letter.) He says, (answered Isabella, endeavouring

to speak cheerfully, as she put the letter into her aunt's hand, but failing in the attempt, and bursting into tears,) that he shall expect to see me in London next Sunday.

That will barely leave you time for packing up, before you will need to set off (said Mrs. Mackenzie); but it is, perhaps, as well that it should be so; for, when a parting is once fixed upon, the intermediate time is little more than a continuation of pain to all parties.

Why do you cry? (said Emma, a sweet little girl of about four years old, coming up to her cousin, and speaking in an affectionate tone.)

Because, my darling, (answered Isabella, taking the child on her knee, and clasping her fondly to her breast,)—because I am obliged to go away and leave you.

Then, who will teach me my lessons? (asked the little girl.)

You know you have a good kind mamma, who will teach you every thing that you ought to learn.

But I do not like you to go away (remonstrated the little girl, clasping her arms about Isabella's neck); I will not let you leave us, for I like to have you here.

Come, (said Mrs. Mackenzie, seeing that these affectionate regrets did not tend to dry Isabella's tears,) this distress must not be indulged. Go, my dear girl, and arrange all your things ready for packing up, that you may find that business easier to morrow. Isabella obeyed; and endeavoured, by employing herself in preparing for her journey, to forget that it was to separate her from those whom she had loved from her infancy.

She settled with the young people the different

charges, with which she was to entrust each of them, of those things which it had hitherto been her particular business to attend to. To Henry, she assigned the care of her garden; which, having been gradually increased, as she became more able to manage it, was now a very beautiful little flower-plot, which he was very proud of having entrusted to him. To Laura, she left the charge of visiting a poor woman; who, being too old to be able to read herself, Isabella had long been in the habit of reading the Bible to, half an hour every day; and, to the little Emma, who was more peculiarly her darling, devolved the employment of feeding some tame pigeons, and of looking out, in the cold weather, for the little robins, when they pecked at the window for a few crumbs of bread. The business of packing then succeeded; and she was kept fully engaged, for Mrs. Mackenzie, conscious of the good effects of employment, took care that she should do all herself, that she might not have too much time to reflect: and when, in the evening, all was in readiness, and she sat down beside her aunt, and recollected that it would probably be long before she again enjoyed such a pleasure, that affectionate relation, so far from gratifying her own vanity, by encouraging her niece's regrets, endeavoured to lead her to the contemplation only of what would amuse and please her. She talked to her of the different interesting objects which she would see on her journey, and which, to allow her more time for observing, Mr. Mackenzie had determined to set out two days sooner than they needed to have done, and reminded her of the visit which they should pay to Frederick and Douglas, at Oxford. Besides, do you remember, (added she,) that your friend, Mary

Ann Hulme, will be in London by the time you get there?—Oh! yes, (replied Isabella, her eyes sparkling with pleasure, as she anticipated the meeting with her favourite companion,) I could not fail of remembering that. It is one of my greatest sources of comfort.

I have great satisfaction, (returned Mrs. Mackenzie,) at the idea of your having such a friend to go to; for, though you are sure to find two very kind ones in your uncle and sister, the addition of such a companion as the modest, intelligent, and affectionate Mary Ann, cannot fail of being a great acquisition; and, I hope, your early friendship will be strengthened and confirmed by your future intercourse.—Isabella, delighted to hear her friend thus praised by one whose judgment she so highly valued, almost ceased to remember, in the pleasure of conversing with her aunt, that she was about to leave her for so long a time.

Though the chaise was ordered at a very early hour, the whole family was assembled to take leave of their favourite: even the lowest of the servants came forward, anxious to have a kind farewell from the amiable girl.—Adieu! dear Oaklands, (said she, with a sigh, as the carriage drove off,) never shall I see a place I like half so well.

You have not seen what London can produce yet (said Mr. Mackenzie).

Never can it produce so many dear and interesting objects (said Isabella, looking out of the window, as long as ever she could discriminate the group which stood on the steps at the door, watching the carriage till it was quite out of sight.)—Though Isabella's inclinations would have led her to indulge in melancholy regrets for the loss of the friends she had

parted with for the first time in her life since she came to Oaklands, she was too much in the habit of considering her duty to others to give way to her feelings, and, therefore, shewed a grateful readiness to receive her uncle's attempts to amuse her; and, ever desirous of information, she conversed with him about the different objects which presented themselves to their observation as they went along. After examining the cathedrals of Durham and York, the cloth-hall at Leeds, and the beautiful ruins of Fountain's Abbey, which Mr. Mackenzie kindly went a little out of his way to shew her, they arrived, at the end of the third day, at Oxford; and were received, with great delight, by the two brothers, who, being apprised of their coming, were in readiness to receive them. The evening was spent with cheerfulness and pleasure by all the party; and the whole of the next day fully occupied in shewing Isabella many objects worthy of attention in that ancient and venerable seat of learning. It had been Mr. Mackenzie's first intention to be in London on the Saturday evening, as he had an objection to employ the whole of the Sunday in travelling; but, finding Isabella very desirous of having a pretty minute examination of so celebrated a place, and the young men, of course, very unwilling to part with them, he at length determined to give up the idea of arriving at their journey's end before the Monday; and, therefore, fixed upon staying to attend divine service on the Sunday morning; and then, by going a stage or two afterwards, make the distance very easy to accomplish, in good time, the following day. Nothing could exceed the delight of the two brothers on their father's agreeing to this arrangement; for, having always been treated by him with that ease and affability

which was calculated to win their most perfect confidence, they felt towards him, at the same time, that every sentiment was mingled with respect and even veneration, and with that ease and unreserve which gave him more the appearance of an elder brother than a father. They had no temptation for that change of character, which they so often observed amongst their college companions, when visited by their parents. Their hearts were virtuous, and their manners pure: they could, therefore, meet their father with confidence and satisfaction, and were ever sure to find in him a kind approving friend.

I never gave up the idea of visiting Oaklands with so little regret before, (said Frederick, on his father's telling them, a short time before he took leave, that it was their uncle's wish that they should spend their next vacation with him,) for there will be such a strong string to pull the other way, when Isabella is in London, that the chain which leads to Edinburgh will be forced, I believe, to stretch and give way a little.

There is another inducement too, (said Douglas,) for I have an amazing curiosity, Isabella, to see that beautiful sister of your's. There is a young man here, from Southampton, who has met with her once or twice; and he says, she is one of the greatest beauties he ever saw: and he tells me, that many people were very much vexed at Lady Ann for not letting her be more frequently seen; but, as Julia grew older, her ladyship could not help seeing, that the same cause had very different effects on Julia's beauty and her own; for, whilst it brought the one to perfection, it led the other to decay,—and the contrast was so striking, that it was supposed to be the reason of her ladyship's sudden prudence in

keeping her charge shut up, because she was too young to be introduced; as well as of her great willingness to part with her, as soon as my uncle expressed a wish to have her.

Then, I suppose, your charitable judgment will attribute the same motives to your mother, (said Mr. Mackenzie,) for being equally ready to part with Isabella; for she is both handsome and improving in beauty, as well as her sister; and your mother, like Lady Ann, is past the meridian of her's.

No! (said Douglas, with warmth,) no one could ever think of ascribing such motives to my mother; for, though her personal charms may be fading, as well as Lady Ann's, she has others, which are only advancing to perfection, which never fail to call forth admiration, and which will keep improving till she has ceased to delight us with the sight of them.

Then be less severe in your judgment of others, (answered his father,) if you are so indignant at such suspicions being imputed to those you love.

But (remonstrated Douglas,) there can be no comparison between my mother and Lady Ann, a gay, thoughtless woman of fashion, who thinks beauty and riches the only things worthy of admiration; and who, now that she is losing the first, will have little left worth possessing.

Douglas, (said Isabella, patting him good temperedly on the shoulder as she spoke,) I must not sit and hear my sister's friend railed against in this manner, so I beg you will change the subject.

Here is the carriage, (said Mr. Mackenzie, looking out of the window,) so we will set off, and leave both Douglas and his scandal.

The punishment bears no proportion to the crime (replied Douglas, laughing); and it could not have

been more severe, if I had told Isabella that she was losing her beauty.

Charges, which are so entirely without foundation, seldom give much offence (said Frederick, as he handed Isabella into the carriage, and bade her an affectionate adieu for a few months).

Nothing particular occurred to the travellers, who arrived, in good dinner-time, at Harley Street. Isabella, jumping out of the carriage, soon received a hearty embrace from the captain, and the next moment was pressed, with the most enthusiastic raptures, in the arms of her sister; whom, as she got leisure to view her more particularly, she found to be a most beautiful and elegant girl, much more formed and womanly than she had expected to see her, and more so, she felt conscious, than she herself was, though full a year older; for the simple retired mode of life, to which Isabella had been accustomed, had been the means of her retaining much more of girlish simplicity than her sister's more gay and fashionable habit had produced.

But why, (said the captain, when the strangers were settled,) did you disappoint us yesterday? Miss Courtley and Julia arrived by dinner, and we waited some time for you, and kept looking and watching all the evening, in expectation of your coming. I am sorry, (said Mr. Mackenzie,) that we should have kept you waiting. It was our intention to have been with you on Saturday night; but we had so much to see at Oxford, that too much of the day was spent before we were aware of its progress, to allow us to fulfil our intentions; and, as neither of us were inclined to travel on Sunday, at least during the hours of service, we determined to comply with Frederick and Douglas's request, and stay

there till after that time, and attend public worship with them.

Attend public worship! (exclaimed Julia, turning to her sister,) is it possible you could feel so inclined whilst in the dishabille of travelling?

I took care not to be in dishabille (answered Isabella).

I am happy to think I was not your fellow-traveller, (said Miss Courtley, shrugging her shoulders;) for I should have had little notion of being stopped on my journey, for the sake of hearing a long dull sermon.

But the devotional part might, perhaps, have had more power to detain you (said Mr. Mackenzie).

Oh! I should have comforted myself with thinking, that I could have said my prayers as fervently in the carriage as in any church.

There is little doubt of it, (thought Isabella, but the next moment blamed herself for the severity of the meaning with which the words passed even in her own mind).

After all, however, I cannot say but I think my brother perfectly right (said the captain, who was in reality a truly pious man); and I am very much ashamed to think, that, instead of urging Isabella to travel on that day, I did not write to prevent you and Julia doing it.

Oh! my dear sir, it would have been a very useless piece of trouble (replied Miss Courtley); for we should not have known how to have got the day spent if we had not been travelling: we had all packed up, and ready for moving, and could not have settled to any thing comfortably.

And this is the woman who is to fill my aunt's place! (thought Isabella, with a sigh.)

The evening was spent in a great many friendly enquiries, and in a very close examination and comparison, by the captain, of his two adopted daughters. Though Julia still held her place as first favourite, it was impossible not to be pleased with Isabella's amiable and unassuming manners, and intelligent and sensible countenance. She is really a very fine girl, (said the captain to Mr. Mackenzie, when the females were withdrawn for the night;) and, though Julia certainly seizes the heart more powerfully at first, I have no doubt, if Isabella appears as well, on further acquaintance, as she does at present, that I shall soon like her quite well enough.

Every one must admire her unaffected beauty, and unassuming good sense, even at first sight, (said Mr. Mackenzie;) but it is only on a long and intimate acquaintance, that Isabella can be loved as she deserves.

I am a very fortunate man, (returned the captain,) to have two such daughters to come home to, without any of the trouble of educating them. But I hope, brother, my sister will now give up a little, and allow that other people's mode of educating may be as good as her's; for you see, though these girls have been brought up as differently as possible, it is hard to tell which way has been most successful.

That must be determined by a longer trial, (answered Mr. Mackenzie;) but, if you recollect, you would not allow it to be possible to make any thing that was good of Laura's charge.

I grant (said the captain,) she had a most difficult soil to cultivate, and am much surprised at her success; but yet, after all, you must not expect me to believe that she would bear dissecting and

examining as closely as her sister, who had a disposition from nature which was all that could be wished.

I hope sincerely (said Mr. Mackenzie,) that they will both bear the test of time, and wish you a good night, and every comfort in your new family.

## CHAPTER VI.

ISABELLA, who had scarcely been able to prevail upon herself to lose sight of her uncle Mackenzie, during his stay in town, felt it very difficult, on his departure, to take leave of him with composure, which, however, she was determined to do, as she knew it would be a satisfaction to her aunt to hear that he had left her in tolerable spirits; but no sooner had the carriage driven off, than the tears, which had only trembled in her eyes whilst he was present, began, in spite of every effort, to force their way down her cheeks, and she went into the first room that she came to, that she might indulge herself, for a few minutes, in the luxury of allowing them to flow unrestrained.

My dear Isabella, (cried Julia, coming into the room, whilst the handkerchief was still at her sister's eyes,) you surely are not so inconsiderate as to allow yourself to cry so seriously,—you will spoil your beauty for the whole day to come.

And does a consideration for your beauty always enable you to keep your feelings under restraint? (asked Isabella, wiping her eyes, and endeavouring to smile.)

Oh! nobody, who had any thought, would ever be so foolish as to swell up their eyes with crying (answered Julia). A gentle tear, now and then, is sometimes necessary, and has a very pretty effect; but a violent flood of them is of all things the most disgusting, both at the time and in its effects afterwards.

I should have no hopes then (said Isabella), of your excusing me for this indulgence in one, if I did not know that you too have but lately known what it was to part with very dear friends, and I have no doubt, on that occasion, indulged in the same weakness.

Indeed, you are mistaken, (returned Julia;) for, even had I been willing to give way to such violent grief, I did not at all feel inclined to it on taking leave of Lady Ann, for I believe she and I were mutually satisfied to part; and, though we expressed our grief in the most tender and affectionate manner, I am sure there was a very small portion of it between us in reality. She was, on her part, very glad to get quit of one who served continually, by the power of contrast, to remind her that she was neither so young nor so beautiful as she once was; and who must therefore be a most unwelcome companion at this time, when just on the point of appearing as a bride; and I was thankful to be relieved from the restraints which her jealousy had imposed upon me. For, ever since I had the misfortune to cease to be a child, she has been particularly anxious that I should be kept close to my lessons, and make the most of the time which was in my power.

Julia might have gone on much longer, before she was interrupted by her astonished sister, who

could only gaze at her with amazement; at length said she, Is it possible, Julia, that you can talk thus of a person, who has been even more than a mother to you?

Oh! as to that, (returned Julia,) I assure you the obligations are pretty nearly equal. Lady Ann was ambitious of being thought the most feeling and the most generous woman in the world; and, therefore, any one who enabled her to confirm that character was, in fact, doing her an essential service.

What a strange rattling girl you are, Julia, (said Isabella, who now began to hope her sister was only endeavouring, by jokes, to amuse her mind from her regret.)

I assure you, I am saying nothing but what I really think, and mean, (answered Julia, in a serious tone of remonstrance.)

I should be sorry to think that was the case, (replied Isabella, looking at her sister with a mingled expression of doubt and concern;) for, whatever might be her motives, Lady Ann has acted towards you in a most kind and liberal manner. You have been nursed in the lap of luxury and indulgence, and have had opportunities of improvement, not often within the reach of those whose situation gives them a much better right to expect it.

Bless me! (exclaimed Julia, interrupting her sister,) who is this, coming up the steps? Nothing less, I declare, than a plain demure-looking young woman, who even seems like a quaker.

And, I dare say, she is one, (said Isabella, her countenance kindling with delight and animation;) for it is, I have no doubt, my friend, Mary Ann Hulme.

Your friend! (exclaimed Julia;) where, in the world, did you meet with such a one?

She spent three years with a relation, who was a particular friend of my aunt Mackenzie, at Edinburgh, (replied Isabella;) for she, like ourselves, had the misfortune to lose her mother when very young, and there we became intimate, and a friendship was formed between us, which, I hope, will be as lasting as life. You must not allow yourself to be prejudiced against her, on account of her religion; for you will soon find that she has nothing of the quaker about her, but its modest simplicity and neatness. She is——but here the door opened, and the next moment her friend, whose eulogy she was beginning, was locked in Isabella's arms. Nothing could be more warm and heartfelt than the meeting between these two friends; and, as Julia witnessed their unaffected expressions of delight and affection, she felt emotions of envy, which, a few moments before, she could not have thought it possible for such regard to have excited. Allow me (said Isabella, taking her friend by the hand, when the first transports of pleasure were over,) to introduce you to my sister.

I have had so much pleasure in Isabella's friendship, that I shall be glad to add her sister also to my list of friends, (said the quaker, holding out her hand, and speaking with a frankness which seemed to struggle with a natural reserve and diffidence of disposition.)

If you can think of making a friend of a weak, giddy, frivolous being, (answered Julia, returning the salutation with a graceful cordiality,) I shall be very glad to have my name entered on the list.

I do not expect perfection, even in my friends, (replied Mary Ann, smiling.)

But there are *few*, I dare say, who *put* up for the title, with so *few pretensions for* deserving it, (returned Julia.)

As thou art not very old, however, (said Mary Ann, with the same good-tempered smile, on her countenance,) we will hope, that there yet may be great improvements.

Oh, do not hope any thing of the kind, (cried the volatile Julia;) for, I assure you, I have no expectations of it myself.

Then we will, at least, give thee the credit of not having sought to gain our good opinion by false pretensions (observed Mary Ann).

Here a knock at the door announced other visitors; and, soon after, the two Miss Freelys, whom Julia had known something of, whilst they were on a visit at Southampton, made their appearance. Julia was all ecstasy at seeing them, and Isabella and her visitor were soon left to the undisturbed enjoyment of their own conversation; for, the unfashionable appearance of the modest Mary Ann being honoured with but little notice from her gay and self-important acquaintance, Julia soon became ashamed of the little consideration which she had hitherto bestowed upon her. This was a circumstance, however, scarcely noticed by Mary Ann herself, who was superior to such petty considerations. With a mind enlarged and highly cultivated, she had stores within herself which made her proof against the pointless arrows of weak and insignificant vanity.

My election is made, (said Julia, as soon as their visitors were gone.)

So is mine, answered Isabella.)

And there is no danger of our being rivals, I am persuaded, (said Julia, laughing.) I have no notion of the starched formality of your quaker friend: her very dress is enough to settle the business with me.

As to her dress, (replied Isabella,) I do not know what fault can possibly be found with it; for, excepting simplicity, it has nothing of the quaker about it.

You think her handsome too, no doubt, (said Julia, in a sarcastic tone.)

No, (returned Isabella, mildly,) that, even my partiality cannot fancy. But, though, at first sight, she may even be considered plain, the intelligence and sensibility which kindles in her countenance, whenever she enters into conversation, often makes it necessary that we should examine her features, to be convinced that we had not, at first, formed a wrong judgment.

Well! at any rate, (answered Julia,) she is too perfect,—too exactly what she ought to be, to suit my taste. I must have a friend who is more liable to errors, and then she will the more easily overlook mine.

I doubt that greatly, (said Isabella;) it is not, I believe, those who are the most faulty themselves, who are the readiest to overlook the failings of others. I am glad, however, to find, that even your attempt at blaming my friend is the highest praise you could bestow.

But I did not mean (answered Julia,) at all to bestow even such negative praise upon her, as to make her out to be good merely because she does not do any thing that is wrong; for I have a fault, and a very great one, to allege against her,—she is cold and heartless, she has no generous glow, no fire about her.

You must not set that down as a fact, from her simple and unostentatious exterior, (replied Isabella;) though, even from her countenance, I should suppose the contrary might have been gathered: for its glowing intelligence, and the sweet expression of her eyes, when her modesty will allow them to be seen, are sufficient to bespeak a mind far above the common mould. If these things, however, are not enough to convince you that she has a heart, I must beg you to read some of her poetic effusions, in proof of my assertion. Here is one (added Isabella, taking a paper out of her desk, just at hand,) which will, I hope, convince you that you have formed too hasty an opinion. It was written on my last birth-day, whilst I stood by her, and in consequence of a request, which I had jokingly made, that she would be my poet-laureat, and celebrate my birth-day with an ode. Julia, taking the offered paper, read the following verses:

My Friend has asked me, on this day,
To pour for her the votive lay,
If right I understood;
Then listen whilst thy minstrel sings,
And, like a poet-laureat, brings
The tributary ode.

But what far different feelings fire,
What different thoughts our breasts inspire,
Are obvious to all eyes:
He sings, to charm a monarch's ear,
In strains which truth would blush to hear,
Or, hearing, would despise.

At interest's call, he sweeps the strings,
And flat'ry's sweetest incense brings,
The honeycomb of praise;
And kings have placed, I scarce know how,
The laurel on his venal brow,
And fame's unfading bays.

Whilst I, a maid unknown to fame,
With but few friends I dare to claim,
  Yet those I hope sincere;
When fond affection bids me sing,
Grateful, I touch the trembling string,
  To friendship's listening ear.

And oh! may this auspicious day,
Find thee contented, happy, gay,
  Possessing, and possessed,
Of all that life's rough road can smooth,
Of all that can affliction sooth,
  And make thee truly blest.

What, though dark clouds may sometimes lour,
And chilling mildews blast the flower,
  Of every opening joy;
Heed not the clouds which round thee roll,
Sweet is the sunshine of the soul,
  The pure clear mental sky.

May that sweet-smiling cherub—hope,
Which buoys the sinking spirits up,
  Be still thy constant guest;
And peace her downy pinions spread,
And all her sacred influence shed,
  To harmonize thy breast.

A faithful, unaspiring friend,
May I thy devious steps attend,
  Through life's uneven road:
With thee to joy, with thee to grieve;
For sympathy will oft relieve
  The heart of half its load.

And, when thou seek'st a simple bard,
To sing a song of truth unheard,
  But nobody must know it;
To speak the dictates of the heart,
Unaided, unadorned by art,
  Then I'm thy birth-day poet.*

—They are very tolerable, (said Julia, throwing down the paper,—then, placing herself at the instru-

* These verses were addressed to the Author by a friend, exactly in the manner described by Isabella.

ment, she began to play with great diligence, as if determined to put a stop to any further conversation. Isabella felt a disappointment, which a mind less properly regulated would have sought to vent, by endeavouring to retort upon her sister a part of the mortification which she herself experienced.

In the evening, as the captain sat between his two daughters, as he delighted to call them, and to whom he grew every day more attached,—Now, girls, (said he,) it is time that you should know that I do not intend you to be mere fine ladies, but expect you should become notable housewives into the bargain. I intend you to take, by turns, the office of house-keeper; and that you will attend to the family concerns as though you expected, one day or other, to have one of your own to look after.

I shall like it of all things, (said Isabella;) it will be a pleasant change in our employments, and give a variety to our amusements.

It will be a great amusement to you all, I am sure, to see me become house-keeper, (said Julia;) for I know as much of it as little Bijou, (added she, laughing, and pointing to her little lap-dog, which lay at her feet.)

Then it is the more necessary that you should begin to learn, (answered her uncle.) I do not expect, however, that you should take any very active part in the business at first, but merely to have the paying of the bills, and ordering what is wanted from the butcher, baker, and grocer; for that is work which I have never been accustomed to, and have no notion of doing myself. Besides, you know you will have both Miss Courtley and our excellent old housekeeper to advise you. I have been calculating, and I think 600*l.* ought to keep us a year, in these necessaries. You shall therefore take it by turns,

for a quarter of a year together; and if, after the house is supplied, in the style we are now living, you can save any thing out of the 150*l.* which I shall give you at the beginning of every quarter, that I shall consider as your own. The principal injunction which I shall lay upon you is, that you will take care always to pay your bills immediately,—for nothing will displease me so much as your having debts standing. Should your money fall short, and you can shew me regular accounts and receipts for all that you have spent, I shall not think of confining you to the first sum; I will pay with pleasure all that is beyond, in the expenses, and you shall keep to yourselves whatever they are under the sum given to you.

That is a most capital bargain, (said Isabella;) we may gain, it seems, but we are sure not to lose by it.

As you are the oldest, Isabella, (continued the captain,) you shall begin,—and then this giddy inexperienced girl may, perhaps, be picking up a little prudence in the mean time to commence her merchandize with. To prevent you, however, from having too strong a temptation to pinch and starve us, I intend to allow you each, at present, 60*l.* a-year, for your own particular expenses, and increase the sum as you get older, and may require more.

Instead of pinching, we shall have to be extravagant, (said Isabella, looking with a sweet and grateful smile at her kind uncle,) or else we shall never be able to get quit of so much money.

There will not be any great extravagance necessary, I presume, (said Julia, whose countenance did not express all the satisfaction to be seen in her sister's;) few who have been in the habit of giving

to the poor, will have much difficulty in disposing of any overplus which may remain.

That's right, my little girl, (said the captain, putting his arm round Julia's waist, and drawing her towards him, whilst he imprinted a hearty kiss of approbation on her cheek,) that is just the right way of talking. Never forget, in your own abundance, the wants of your fellow creatures, and then you will, in your turn, deserve to be remembered by the great giver of every good.

Julia cast a look of exultation on her sister, as if to say, such praises will never be gained by your cold and systematic course of proceeding; but Isabella felt a consciousness of her own motives, which made her indifferent to the superiority expressed.

The manner in which she set about the duties of her new office shewed that the judicious friend, who had superintended her education, had not deemed household economy the least important branch of it.

Julia, however, often felt the persuasion that, at the quarter's end, even the prudent Isabella would be found in the lurch; for she scarcely ever saw her take any concern in what was going forward: but, Julia did not consider, that, whilst she lay in bed, till even her kind and indulgent uncle was sometimes out of patience at waiting so long for breakfast, Isabella had already had several hours on her hand,—and as these hours were devoted to her domestic arrangements, there was not any occasion, afterwards, for her time to be taken up from the general pursuits of the family. The captain, too, though unwilling to acknowledge, even to himself, the shadow of a defect in his favourite Julia, could not but observe, that her sister had the talent of arranging her time, so as to be able to pay him

much more attention than Julia fancied she had time for.

He was particularly fond of walking, and especially when having one of his nieces for a companion; but Julia had generally some arrangement at his time of walking, and he had then to turn to the ever-ready and willing Isabella.

Nor was this the only time that he was led to a comparison of the two sisters; for Julia, whose passion was to be admired, and who was all animation in the presence of strangers, soon became languid and vapourish, if condemned to spend an evening without company. If asked to play, she was too much fatigued; if invited by her uncle to a game at back-gammon, of which he was particularly fond, her head ached, and she could not bear the noise; or, if he wished her to sing him one of his favourite songs, her voice was scarcely ever in tune, when its exertion was only required to amuse those every-day hearers whom she had always about her.—I wish Isabella could sing, (said the captain one evening, on Julia's declining).

I cannot sing with so much taste and judgment as Julia, (said the unassuming Isabella;) but, if you would like it, I will do my best.

Why! can you sing at all? (asked her uncle, surprised at her offer.)

I can sing to amuse myself; and sometimes used to succeed in amusing my Oakland friends, (answered Isabella, whilst a modest tinge spread over her face and neck.)

Why have you never sung for me, since you came, then? (replied the captain.)

Because you never asked me, (said Isabella, with a good-tempered smile;) "and I thought it un-

necessary to offer, when you had a better performer within your power: but, now that Julia is too much indisposed to sing, I shall be very glad to do my best to supply her place;" and then, without any further solicitation, going to the instrument, and turning to a song which she knew to be a favourite of her uncle's, she began it immediately. If Isabella had less skill and compass of voice than her sister, she had sweetness and melody which compensated, to the ear of feeling, for any other deficiency,—and her uncle listened with an equal proportion of surprise and delight. "Upon my word, you have astonished me! (he exclaimed, as Isabella, after going through all that she knew him to be particularly fond of, rose from the instrument:) but, now that I know what you can do, you shall not, in future, be forgot."

Julia, however, upon finding that others could contribute amusement as well as herself, was too jealous of rivalship not to be roused to more exertion, and (fearing that Isabella might gain too much the ascendancy in pleasing her uncle), became more alert in her endeavours, when solicited; and, as she generally performed so well upon these occasions, Isabella was seldom called upon to renew her talent; yet, whenever requested, she complied with as much alacrity and cheerfulness as though the compliment had always been paid her.

The two girls having written to Lady Ann and to Mrs. Mackenzie, an account of the economical arrangements which their uncle had made, received, about this time, answers to their letters, which we shall here transcribe.

## Lady Ann St. John to Julia Frankland.

My sweet girl will not, I hope, suspect, from my slowness in answering her letter, that I have for a moment ceased to think of her; or, that I have not continually regretted the succession of engagements which have prevented me from following my inclination in devoting an early portion to her. How naturally have you drawn the picture of your sister, just exactly what I expected you would find her,—cold, methodical, and prudent,—the very counterpart of her sage instructress, whom I once saw, when she was about the age that Isabella is now. And the captain, it seems, means to metamorphose my sprightly Julia into the same kind of domestic animal. I laughed excessively at the idea of your having the liberal sum of sixty pounds a-year allowed you, by way of saving you from the temptation of economizing the house-money to assist your own necessities: but the captain is a novice in the wants and expenses of the female sex, when placed in a fashionable situation in life,—and he has been assisted, no doubt, by Mrs. Mackenzie, who knows almost as much about the matter as he does himself. And, as to having any thing to spare for charity, I dare say such a thing would never enter her head; or, at least, a sixpence, screwed from her by the urgent solicitations of a beggar, would, at any time, satisfy her mind that she was humane and generous. Let not this stinted allowance, however, check the soft impulses of pity in my sweet Julia's feeling bosom, or freeze the warm current of liberality which is so natural to her; for, though I have it not in my power, at present, to send her an enclosure, she may depend upon occasional remittances, to make

up for any deficiencies which she might feel. I shall write again very soon, and give you some account of the gaiety in which I have been involved, for I am now interrupted, and can scarcely get time to assure my beloved Julia, how fondly and affectionately I am her's,

ANN ST. JOHN.

The Colonel desires me to say all that is kind for him.

---

MRS. MACKENZIE TO ISABELLA FRANKLAND.

Your letter, my dear Isabella, met with a very cordial reception from all your friends at Oaklands. There was quite a group formed round me to hear it read: even the little Emma stood over me with great attention, and seemed fully repaid, for having to listen to so much that she could not understand, by hearing, at length, her name mentioned, and that there was a kiss for her.

I am much pleased, my dear girl, with the account you give of your sister,—for you prove yourself to have both discernment to see her foibles, and affection and charity to palliate them. She has laboured under great disadvantages; but, I hope, her heart is yet untainted, and that she has a virtuous disposition, and natural good sense, which will, in time, correct all her little failings, and make her as amiable as you already describe her to be lovely and engaging. We all participated, with great pleasure, in your meeting with your friend, Mary Ann. It is a great satisfaction to me that you have such a female companion near you: for, with an elegance of mind, which is capable of giving additional relish to the highest sources of enjoyment, she possesses a

propriety of judgment, and a degree of self-command, which is not often to be met with in those who have arrived at much greater maturity, in point of years.

I certainly did, as you suppose, give your uncle a hint about engaging Julia and yourself in the family arrangements,—for you know how necessary a part I consider it in the education of a female; and, as you have already been in the habit of it, I am sure it will only be an additional source of amusement to you: and I would have you, whenever you can do it without seeming to undervalue her abilities, always be ready to assist Julia with your experience. Do not be afraid of giving advice, from the dread of being thought conceited, or self-sufficient; for it is the manner, not the mere act, of offering advice, which arrogates an undue self-importance. Advice, given in the way of remark, is generally the most readily received. I would not have you, however, when you see occasion, shrink from the task of giving it in a more direct manner: your only care then is to do it with gentleness and kindness, and shew that it is the result of a sincere concern for her, and not from any wish to display superiority. In the arrangement of your own personal expences, I have so often spoken to you on the subject, and so frequently recommended to you the study of Mrs. Chapone's excellent Advice to her Niece, which anticipates all that I can possibly have to offer, that I shall not attempt to enlarge upon the subject,—satisfied that you are not now called upon to act, for yourself in some measure, without having previously laid in a store of well-arranged principles to guide and regulate you. Never let the fear of being thought mean induce you to do an extravagant ac-

tion; or the dread of being called extravagant lead you to the commission of a mean one. Let your actions be the result of judgment,—and they will be sanctioned by all the best feelings of the heart. Self-reproach and mortification are generally the companions of those who act from feeling only, and leave to judgment to approve or censure as chance may determine. Henry desires me to tell you, that your garden goes on very well; and I will add, of my own accord, that he keeps it very neat, and free from weeds. Laura performs her task of reading to old Susan with great diligence; but you will have a letter from Henry before long, giving an account of the different stewardships, so that it is unnecessary for me to enter into any further particulars. Your uncle had a letter from Frederick, the other day, who has already began to count the number of days which have to intervene before their departure for London, which was then fifty-nine. I wish there were no more between this time and that of your uncle's promised visit, with his two daughters, at Oaklands, when my dear Isabella will be sure to meet with a most heartfelt welcome from all its inhabitants, and from none more so than her affectionate aunt,

LAURA MACKENZIE.

## CHAPTER VII.

I WILL tell you what, you little lay-a-bed, (said the captain, coming and laying his hand upon Julia's head,) I would advise you to go to bed in good time to-night, that you may be able to rise a little

earlier in the morning,—for, as you have often asked me to take you to Richmond, I have set my mind upon our having a jaunt there to-morrow.

But, my dear uncle, (returned Julia, turning, and looking up in the captain's face with a smile of playful remonstrance,) it was quite inconsiderate of you to set your mind upon any thing, without giving us timely notice of it, to prevent our forming other engagements which might come in the way of your inclinations.

Engagements! what the plague have you to form engagements about?

Oh, a hundred things! And it so happens, that I have a very particular one for to-morrow; for Miss Courtley and I have promised the Miss Freelys, to accompany them to an auction of fashionable millinery, where all the world is expected to be.

Then there can be the less occasion for you amongst the number, (answered the captain;) and I do not intend to be put off in my plan of pleasure. So you must just make up your mind to excuse yourselves to the Miss Freelys, who, by the bye, I am not at all fond of your being so much with, for they are two giddy flaunting things, and will do you no good, I am sure.

Hush! (said Julia, putting her hand upon her uncle's lips;) do not say such naughty things, for I must not have my friends abused.

Well! send your excuses to them then, (answered he, as soon as he could get his mouth at liberty so as to allow him to speak,) and I will say neither ill nor good of them.

Oh! I would not excuse myself from attending the auction to-morrow for the world, (cried Julia, with great earnestness,) for I expect it will be the

most delightful thing that can be. Besides, there will be such a chance of getting some cheap bargains. Would it not be shocking to have to give it up, Miss Courtley? (added she, turning to that lady, confident of her aid and assistance.)

The captain will never think of insisting upon it, (answered Miss Courtley;) for any day will do for Richmond, but we do not know when such a thing as this auction may happen again.

Well then, Isabella, you must try to get your friend Mary Ann Hulme to accompany us, and we will go without them; for I suppose you are not engaged to the auction too?

No, (answered Isabella;) I have no engagements of any kind to prevent me. But I think we should have only half the pleasure, were we to go without the rest of our party.

Oh! they do not deserve to be considered for a moment (said the captain).

Yes, but we do though (returned Julia, looking in her uncle's face with one of those arch expressions, with which she knew how to win him over whenever she chose). And you *will* consider us too, and be just as ready to take us to Richmond another day as you are at present.

Indeed, I shall not (answered he, endeavouring to look angry, but the next moment, forgetting his intention, he spoke with as much good nature as ever again). You of course will attend this fashionable resort too, Isabella? (said he, turning to his eldest niece with as pleasant a tone and look, as though he had never been contradicted.)

I do not know why I should go, (answered Isabella,) for I am not at all fond of a crowd, and I have no wish to purchase any thing.

Oh! I would have you to go (said her uncle, who had always a pleasure in their being amused); the sight will be new to you. A fashionable auction is always a curious scene, for you will see a set of foolish, thoughtless, fine ladies squandering away their money, and ruining themselves with cheap bargains.

But, as there may be a danger of my falling into the same error myself, (said Isabella, laughing,) it may be better, perhaps, for me to keep out of the way of temptation.

I am not at all afraid of you, (said the captain,) I have too much confidence in your prudence; and you may, perhaps, have a little to spare, which may be useful to your sister here, who is not so plentifully supplied.

I thank you, (said Julia,) but that safe calculating kind of prudence I have no relish for, I assure you. It is very dry hum-drum sort of work, and will only do for such tame mechanical beings as Isabella to practise.

Whenever mine can be of any use to you, however, (answered Isabella, with the most perfect sweetness and good temper,) I hope you will always remember that it is at your service.

The captain looked at Isabella, as she spoke, with an expression of pleasure and approbation, which he had seldom directed towards her; and Julia, alarmed at the appearance of her increasing favour, said, "My uncle forgot, I am sure, when he recommended Isabella as an adviser, that I could never be at a loss for one when Miss Courtley was with me." The captain declared it was far from his intention to put any slight upon Miss Courtley in what he had said, and applauded Julia for remembering the respect due to her governess. The matter was then dropt, by

Julia's going to the instrument, and volunteering one of her uncle's favourite songs, which never failed to set all to rights again, and restore her to her wonted dominion.

The following morning the Miss Freelys called, according to their appointment, and Isabella being prevailed upon to accompany them, they all set off to the auction. Isabella, who possessed a quick observation and great discernment, was much amused for a long time in watching the various countenances which surrounded her, and in marking the different motives which seemed to influence the bidders. She found the spirit of opposition, and the fear of being thought unable to give as much as another, to be the most powerful incentives, and often to lead to much dearer purchases than might have been procured in a regular way in the shops. But these appearances soon ceased to be amusing, when she saw them operating in an alarming manner upon Julia, who bought one useless article after another, without thinking of the money she was thus foolishly throwing away, whilst Miss Courtley sat by perfectly unconcerned. At length, unable any longer to remain a silent spectator of her folly, Isabella ventured a remonstrance; but Julia, with a pert and saucy air, begged she would keep herself comfortable with the idea of her own money being quite safe. Finding, therefore, that she could be of no use to her sister, and was only subjecting herself to mortification in witnessing her imprudence, she begged Miss Courtley to allow the servant, who attended them, to accompany her to Mr. Hulme's, who did not live very far distant, where she would wait till they called for her, which being agreed to, she took her leave of the auction, without any wish to pay it another visit.

On being asked by the captain, when he met them at dinner, how they had been amused,—You must not ask Isabella (said Julia, laughing); for I believe she was in misery lest the money should be taken out of her pocket whether she would or not, and therefore very wisely decamped whilst she was sure it was safe.

Was that the case, Isabella? (asked the captain.)

No! (answered Isabella,) I was under no concern about my own money; I was only sorry to see it taken so freely out of Julia's purse, for things which I could not think would be of any value to her afterwards.

I believe (said the captain,) that an itch for cheap bargains is often the cause of very dear ones being bought, and I know no one more likely to commit that error than your sister there. But, as long as she does but keep out of debt, and makes matters meet at the quarter's end, I shall not trouble myself about the rest, but leave it to her own management.

Then I hope (said Julia,) that every body else will be equally kind in leaving me at liberty to spend my money as I like best myself, unless they see me unwilling to come forward when called upon to assist those who are in need.

And that, I will answer for it, will never be, as long as you have a penny in your pocket (said her fond uncle, whilst Isabella, not thinking it worth her while to make any reply to Julia's retort, the subject was dropped).

The following morning Mary Ann Hulme, with whom Isabella had made an engagement the preceding day, arrived at the time appointed, and Julia, who had gone up-stairs just before she came in, soon after made her appearance, equipped ready for going out,

Are you going out so early this morning? (asked Isabella, with a look of surprise, as her sister entered the room.)

Yes (answered Julia); I only wait for Miss Courtley's being ready to set off immediately.

I am sorry we are not to have thy company, (said Mary Ann,) for thy sister and I are going to read a book together, which we were in hopes thou wouldst have joined us in.

You are very good, (answered Julia,) and I dare say I should have liked it vastly, if I had had no other engagement, but I am going to attend the auction again, which is not half over yet.

Are you going to the auction again? (said Isabella, with a look of concern,) I am sorry you should think of going any more.

Be satisfied, my good sister, (answered Julia,) that we do not invite you again to accompany us.

I had much rather go myself, much as I dislike it, than you should do so (answered Isabella).

You are exceedingly kind, (replied her volatile sister;) but, as I had much rather go myself than that you should do so, I will not put you to so much pain. Is not this sister of mine very kind, (added she, turning to Mary Ann,) to be willing to put herself to mortification rather than I should have pleasure?

I am sure that is not her motive (said Mary Ann); on the contrary, I am so persuaded that she has a kind one for what she does, that I will take the liberty of joining her, and of endeavouring to prevail upon thee to give up thy intention. Look, we have got a book, which I am persuaded thou wouldst have great pleasure in reading. It is Maria Edgeworth's new novel, for so I suppose we must be obliged to call her stories, though they are so dif-

ferent from the generality of that class of publications.

What! a quaker read a novel! (exclaimed Julia.) Oh! then I have found out the reason of your being here so early this morning. You are come to read here what you would be afraid of your father seeing you read at home.

No! (replied Mary Ann, with a look of dignity very unlike the usual expression of her gentle countenance.) Thou art mistaken if thou supposest that I am come here for the purpose of cheating my father. He is too good and too reasonable to object to any innocent source of amusement; and, as I have promised that I never will read a novel without his permission, he is too kind to make any unnecessary objections, and puts Maria Edgeworth's works into my hand without even the precaution of looking at them himself first; convinced that I shall find nothing there inimical to the purest virtue. Let me advise thee, therefore, (added she, resuming her usual gentleness and sweetness of expression,) to stay and read this Patronage with us. It will serve thee to think of with pleasure, longer than the auction, I am certain.

Oh, I have no doubt but it might. But I have set my mind upon going there to-day. As to Patronage, I shall read it of course, because it will be fashionable, and it is necessary that one should be able to talk about it; but skimming slightly over it will be sufficient for me, just to know the story, and understand what people are talking about.

But it will heighten our pleasure much in reading, to have thee a sharer in it.

And you will be able to enter with much more

pleasure into the merits of the book if you read it regularly through (added Isabella).

All that may be very good, (said Julia, with unhesitating perseverence,) but I am fixed upon going; and I hear Miss Courtley's voice upon the stairs,—so good bye, good bye (added she, skipping out of the room before they had time to say another word).

We must endeavour to amuse ourselves then, Isabella, as that lively sister of thine is determined to leave us (said Mary Ann, opening the book as she spoke, and beginning immediately to read, convinced that the less comment there was made upon Julia's behaviour the pleasanter it would be to the feelings of her friend). It was not long, however, before they were interrupted by the return of the servant who had accompanied Miss Courtley and Julia, bringing a note from the latter to Isabella; who, on opening it, read the following lines, written with a pencil on the blank cover of a letter.

MY DEAR ISABELLA,

I have just made a purchase, without knowing at the time that I had not money enough with me to pay for it. I will thank you, therefore, to have the goodness to send me five pounds, which shall be repaid with thanks by your affectionate sister, JULIA.

Though Isabella was in the habit of speaking with the greatest openness to her friend about every thing that concerned herself, she felt a delicacy in exposing the foibles of her sister, and therefore went out of the room to enclose the note in a paper, on which she wrote the following remonstrance:

"Though the enclosed sum, or twice as much, should be at my dear Julia's service if it would be

of any real use to her, I cannot now even lend it without endeavouring to warn her once more against involving herself in difficulties for the gratification of mere imaginary wants. Let me therefore beg that she will refrain from any further purchases, which, however cheap, must prove dear when bought with money that is needed for other purposes."

When Julia returned home, she displayed her bargains, and expatiated on their beauty and cheapness, but took no notice of the money which she had borrowed of Isabella, who, in spite of the meanness with which she was so often accused, had too much delicacy to remind her of it.

Great, however, was her consternation, when she heard Miss Courtley and Julia talking of a third day's attendance upon the auction; and, determined, if possible, to prevent it, she said, "You do not, I hope, think of going any more to this auction?"

Oh! one may as well do that as any thing else, (answered Julia,) for there is certainly a great deal of amusement to be had.

But, (said Isabella, who began to think that a direct remonstrance from her would have a contrary effect from that intended,) I was in hopes you would have been at liberty for us to have had our jaunt to Richmond to morrow?

I should like that quite as well, (said Julia, who now found her purse too low to allow her any more power of flourishing off at the auction by her liberal purchases,) but I cannot think of proposing it to my uncle, after having put him off so lately.

I will undertake that part of the business, (said Isabella, delighted to have hit upon any thing that would take her sister out of the way of temptation; and the captain at that moment entered the room.)

—You have just come in time, uncle, (added she to him,) to agree to a plan which we have been forming for to-morrow.

What is it? (asked her uncle.)

That you should treat us with the promised excursion to Richmond (said Isabella).

Pshaw! Nonsense! (exclaimed the captain.) You know——

Oh! stop, my dear uncle, (interrupted Isabella,) do not begin your sentence, I beg, with a pshaw! for I always find, when you make such a beginning, you never make a good finishing. So now, (added she, in a sweetly-playful manner,) we will forget that you said any thing at all, and I ask you again if you will not oblige me, and take us up to Richmond to-morrow? It is the first time, I think, that I have ever asked you such a favour, and I am sure you will grant it.

I must admit (returned the captain, delighted with Isabella's artless, unaffected vivacity,) that you deserve to be indulged, for you are always ready to walk out, or play at back-gammon, with me; or do any thing that I wish. So I think I must not refuse you, and hope, at the same time, that the rest will look upon it as your treat.

I knew you would do it (replied Isabella, with a grateful smile); and I am sure, whoever has the credit of the treat, it is your kindness only that gives it.

This girl has a heart very sensible of kindness (thought the captain, as he read in his niece's speaking eyes the expression of affection and gratitude with which they beamed).

Mary Ann Hulme, at the captain's request, was of the party; and she and Isabella were highly de-

lighted with the beautiful scenery which presented itself to their view, as they stood on the top of Richmond Hill, whilst Mary Ann exclaimed, with her favourite Thomson—

" Heavens! what a goodly prospect spreads around,
Of hills, and dales, and woods, and lawns, and spires,
And glittering towns, and gilded streams, till all
The stretching landscape into smoke decays!
Happy Britannia! Where the queen of arts,
Inspiring vigour, liberty abroad
Walks, unconfined, even to thy farthest cots,
And scatters plenty with unsparing hand."

To Julia, however, the day was fraught with much fewer pleasures. The excursion, of which she was partaking, she knew to have been entered upon purposely to oblige Isabella, and she had been so long accustomed to look upon her sister as a mere secondary personage, that she could not bear the idea of owing any indulgence to her. She gave way, therefore, to peevishness and ill humour; and neither the captain's uniform good nature, nor Isabella's, or her friend's easy flow of cheerfulness, were able to inspire her with her usual spirits. She complained, however, of not being very well, and, under that cloak, gained full forgiveness from her indulgent uncle, who was willing to attribute her peevishness to any cause rather than the real one.

This has been Isabella's treat, (said he, as they placed themselves in the boat to return home;) Julia must have the bespeaking of the next. What must it be, think you, my little girl? (added he, putting his arm round her waist, and trying to coax her into greater cheerfulness.)

It shall be a dance, (replied Julia, recollecting that, by that choice, she should not only gratify

a favourite amusement of her own, and one, too, in which she felt persuaded that she should put Isabella out of the power of competition, as dancing was an art in which she knew herself particularly to excel; but she was sure it was of such a nature as to exclude Mary Ann from being a partaker,—to whom she felt herself every day acquiring a strengthened dislike; for she could not help giving her credit for merits, to which she was conscious she had herself no pretensions.

A dance it shall be then, (replied the captain;) and you shall have it as soon as ever Frederick and Douglas arrive. It was then fixed for that day month, the evening of the day on which the young students were expected; and the rest of the way was occupied in laying plans, and settling who should and who should not be invited, which insensibly drew Julia into her usual flow of spirits. Nor did Mary Ann and Isabella enter with less sprightliness into the conversation; for the former, a stranger to any thing like envy, ever felt the amusements and pleasures of her friends as her own. Though the particular one which they were at that time planning was such as she was not herself personally in the habit of joining, her good sense convinced her, that, whilst kept under the regulation of prudence and moderation, it was, in itself, an innocent diversion, and she joined, therefore, with great spirit, in assisting with her excellent taste in the arrangements and plans for the occasion.

I think, (said Julia,) if, instead of drawing numbers for the partners of the first dance, we were to have the names of the principal characters of well-known plays, it would make an amusing variety; for

it might, perhaps, lead some, who had spirit for it, to endeavour to support their characters for the rest of the evening.

So it would, (said the captain, who was always ready to enter into any innocent gaiety;) I like that thought exceedingly,—and already fancy I see Douglas playing off the part of some lively hero.

I am afraid, Mary Ann, (said Isabella,) you are not sufficiently acquainted with plays to be able to assist us; or else, instead of the mere names, if you were to furnish us with a verse for each, which should introduce the names of both the hero and his partner, with a slight sketch of their characters, it would add still more entertainment to the business.

I have not certainly much acquaintance with them at present; but, if thou or thy sister wilt give me some little insight into the characters, I will do my best to copy them, (said Mary Ann, with obliging readiness.)

I declare that will be quite delightful, (cried Julia;) and immediately she set on, with great animation, to give Mary Ann an idea of them, which she managed so well, and Mary Ann shewed so much quickness in entering into her illustrations, that she soon found herself possessed of a sufficiently clear insight into her work, to enable her to write the little sketches, which she did with unostentatious readiness, on a blank paper, produced from the captain's pocket-book, to the surprise even of Isabella, though previously well acquainted with the talents of her friend. The captain, whose "easy presence checked no sober mirth," watched their proceedings with great warmth,—and gave a warm tribute to the abilities of the obliging Mary Ann. Upon my word, Miss Hulme, (said he,) you have great merit, in

taking so much trouble about an amusement in which you are not able to partake.

Thou shouldst not say that I cannot partake of it, for I am rather before-hand with you all, and am already enjoying a considerable share (replied Mary Ann).

I had no idea a quaker could possess so much liveliness of imagination, and pliancy of mind, (said the captain, with his usual abruptness;) I always supposed their ideas were as formal as their dress.

Had you been as much amongst them as I have been, (returned Isabella, with a glow of generous and grateful warmth, at the testimony which she felt herself called upon to give towards a favourite set of friends,) you would have had a very different opinion. For their habits, being less dissipated, and consequently depending more on the social enjoyments of home than the generality of other people, they of course make a point of cultivating those talents and dispositions which are best calculated to make society pleasant; and I have often heard my aunt say, that she scarcely ever saw the art of living comfortably so well understood by any set of people as by them.

Quakers (answered Mary Ann, her expressive countenance speaking her thanks to her friend for her gratifying approbation,) are just like other people. Their passions and inclinations are the same; and, like all others, they depend upon the education they receive for what their characters shall become. The sincere and rational class of them, I believe, possess as much true enjoyment as falls to the lot of most mortals. Their sentiments, however, like all other sects of people, are liable to injury by the over-zealous part of their followers, who are too pat, by their rigidity of manners, to throw a degree

of ridicule over the whole, which it does not, in general, deserve.

I believe it, (said the captain;) for you have convinced me, that the quakers may be plain and simple, without being stiff or contracted. And there is one thing that I always admired in them; that is, their readiness to come forward as the friends of any charitable undertaking; for I have always found them more active and liberal, on such occasions, than any other set of people whatever: and have often wondered, that many, whom we could not suppose to be very wealthy, could manage to have so much money to spare.

That, I apprehend, (returned Mary Ann,) thou wilt find to be owing to their wants being fewer than those of others of their own standing in life. Their dress and style of living are less expensive,—which, of course, enables them to spare more for others. But I wish, (added she, smiling,) thy nieces may not begin to fear that I have a notion of converting thee,—and, by that means, deprive them of their expected entertainment.

The conversation then turned to other subjects: on all of which the modest quaker, who had required some time before she could break out in the presence of strangers, and had therefore never before displayed herself so much in the presence of the captain, expressed herself with such taste, propriety, and judgment, on every topic upon which they conversed, that the captain declared himself so warmly her admirer, that, whilst Isabella's bosom glowed with affectionate delight at the praises of her friend, Julia felt less than ever disposed to be pleased with one whose habits and manners were in such direct opposition to her own.

The intervening weeks passed on without any particular incident occurring, excepting the period of Isabella's acting as house-keeper being expired. She laid her accounts before her uncle; which, to Julia's surprise, were all made out with the most perfect neatness an exactness. And she was proved by them to be a gainer of ten pounds, by her saving out of her allowance: at which her kind uncle expressed great satisfaction and pleasure. If Julia comes any way near your mark, (said he,) I think I shall have got two as good house-keepers as any body in town can boast of.

Alas! I fear I shall fall sadly short, (said Julia, as Isabella left the room with her papers, and shrugging her shoulders, as she spoke, with an expression which bordered on contempt;) for I have none of Isabella's sober mechanical qualifications.

It will be worth while, however, to endeavour to acquire them, (returned her uncle, whose esteem for his elder niece rose very rapidly as he became more acquainted with her character;) for I do not see, that, though they make her more useful, she is at all less pleasant for them.

They suit Isabella's taste well enough; but they would not do for mine, (said Julia.) Contemplating her virtues is like looking upon a still piece of water—we are pleased with it at the first glance, but begin to wish for a little motion in it, lest its waters should become stagnant.—But, by way of keeping you awake, my dear uncle, (added Julia, with her usually playful manner, when she wished to please him, and regain any ground that she thought she had lost,) I think I must still play off a few follies

and weaknesses, content with the persuasion that you will—

Be to my faults a little blind,
And to my virtues ever kind.

And she sung these well known words of one of his old songs, in a voice which never failed to make its way to her uncle's heart.

A few follies and weaknesses, I hope, I shall always be able to make every allowance for, (said he, gently,) provided you keep clear of great imprudences or vices. Keep out of debt, and be just to every one, and you will always find a friend in me.

On receiving their quarter's allowance, which the captain paid them at the same time that he installed his new house-keeper in her office, Julia said, (when he left the room for a few minutes, and as she put up the money she had just received,) "As you are so rich, Isabella, it will not be of any consequence to you, if I do not pay you the five pounds which I owe you, at present, and it will suit me better not to do so."

I should have mentioned it to you before, (answered Isabella,) but I did not wish to remind you of it, as I was desirous that you should keep it altogether; for I am so rich, that I shall not have any occasion for it, and you can very likely find a use for it.

With great ease, (replied Julia, with an air of carelessness;) and for as much more as you have to spare. For my allowance will have no chance, I am sure, of keeping me through the year; and I have no hope of making a profitable merchandize by my house-keeping, as you have done.

But ought you not, my dear Julia, (said Isa-

bella, with earnestness,) to take care that it does go through the time allotted to it,—for, by not doing so, you only involve yourself in difficulties; and you know my uncle always says, that nothing could displease him so much as our contracting debts.

Oh! I have no fear of that, (answered Julia;) for Lady Ann has promised to assist me when I fall short: so that I have nothing to do but to write to her, and tell her how much I want, as soon as my money is nearly gone.

Lady Ann has not shewn herself your friend by such a promise, I am afraid, (returned Isabella;) for these sort of dependencies generally do a great deal of harm. They often fail when most required; and if, even for a while, they continue to assist us, there must be a time when they will cease, —and then, strengthened habit only makes it more difficult to do without them. Let me urge you, then, my dear sister, (added she, with increased earnestness, and with a look of the most affectionate solicitude,) to depend upon yourself only; and to confine your expenses to what you know to be your certain means of defraying them.

I hope, (said Julia, stretching herself and yawning in Isabella's face,) your sermon is finished, for I am almost asleep,—(and hearing a knock at that moment at the street-door,) Thank goodness, (said she, running to the window,) here are the Miss Freelys, coming to rouse us from our lethargy.

These ladies were come to invite Julia to accompany them to their milliner's, to give her opinion about some new dresses, which they were getting made; and, the invitation being readily accepted, Miss Courtley was requested to attend them,—and, without even hav-

ing the civility to ask Isabella to be of the party, they set out immediately.

What! left alone, Isabella, (said the captain, returning to the room soon after the others had left it.) How does it happen that you have not joined the rest?

Because, (answered Isabella, who was too kind to her sister to make any complaint of her that could lessen her in his esteem,) I preferred walking towards the country rather than the town, and was in hopes you would invite me to walk with you.

That I will, with all my heart, (returned the captain;) so, go and get yourself ready, and I will give you an opportunity of stretching your legs, and breathing the fresh air. She was soon ready, and, delighted to join her kind and indulgent uncle, to whom she grew every day more and more attached, in his favourite exercise, she gave full play to the vivacity of her mind; and they were soon engaged in a conversation, amusing to the one and instructive to the other. For the captain, though not a man of much reading, and though his mind was contracted by a few early prejudices, possessed, nevertheless, a good understanding, and, having been much in foreign countries, and consequently seen a great deal of life and manners, was master of much general information, which he was as ready to communicate as his companion was to hear.

## CHAPTER VIII.

At length the day for the arrival of the young collegians appeared, and they were received with great kindness by all the family,—but by Isabella in particular, whose speaking eyes confirmed the affectionate welcome which her tongue expressed. If the years, which the captain had been absent, had made so much alteration in the appearance of his nieces, he found that they had not been less active in their effects on his nephews, whom he no sooner looked upon, than he was relieved from all apprehensions lest their home education should have made them effeminate or spiritless. They were genteel without affectation, gay without levity, and sensible and intelligent without stiffness or pedantry. Even Julia could not but acknowledge, though she did so with surprise, that they were two most fashionable and pleasing young men,—and she was seized with an unaccountable ambition to be thought well of by them. Nor were the two brothers at all niggardly in the admiration which they bestowed in return, though they differed a little in their opinion of which of the sisters was the handsomest. Frederick gave the preference to Isabella's face, and Douglas was inclined to think that Julia bore the palm; but they both agreed, that for beauty of person, elegance of manners, and sprightliness of conversation, there were few such girls to be met with. Julia, however, had been so long accustomed to hear Frederick's great attainments as a scholar spoken of, that she found it impossible to divest her

mind, in spite of the evidences of her senses, of his being a pedant. Consequently, she entered the ball-room, in the evening, with a strong persuasion that his manner of acquitting himself there, would be likely to afford her great amusement; and determined to be upon the watch, that none of his little absent or awkward tricks should escape her notice. As soon as the tickets were drawn, Douglas came to her, and saying, As he understood she had determined to let her name serve instead of a ticket, and that she waited to see what kind of a Romeo Chance would give her, he had the pleasure of declaring, that fortune had kindly selected him, and that for once in her life she saw a happy Romeo. May I beg the favour of your hand for the next two dances, (said Frederick, coming to her almost at the same instant;) for, though I am Don Carlos, I have got an Angelica in your sister so much to my mind, that I am sure I shall be quite reformed before I am your partner.

Oh! the most fortunate chance that ever was, (exclaimed Julia;) you could not have drawn a more suitable character,—and I declare I am inclined to sit out, for the sake of seeing the learned student cut his capers, which he will no doubt do with mathematical precision. Or I should not wonder if you were to fancy that you are exhibiting in the ancient gymnaceum, instead of a modern ball-room.

Then you will certainly be very well out of my way, (answered Frederick, laughing,) lest I should begin to show off some of my feats as a wrestler; when you might not, perhaps, find me a very pleasant neighbour.

I really think I cannot find in my heart to dance,

(said Julia, as Douglas offered to take her hand to lead her to her place in the set, which was now beginning to be formed,) lest I should lose the amusement of watching your brother.

I would advise you, however, (said Frederick,) to be moderate in your mirth, for remember the fate of Alcéthoë.

Oh! (answered Julia,) I have been so long accustomed to the fashionable world, where people are always most alive after sun-set, that I believe I should make an excellent bat.

Particularly a vampire one, (said Douglas, smiling;) for I never saw any one more likely to steal away a person's life, whilst you only appeared to be playing with him.

That is so gallant a speech, that I can no longer refuse to dance, (said Julia, giving him her hand, and allowing him to lead her forward.) Julia's expectations of amusement at Frederick's dancing, led her to keep her eyes almost constantly upon him, anxious to see how both he and his partner exhibited. But infinite was her astonishment when she saw their performance: the easy grace of their movements, and the animation and spirit with which they pursued the mazes of the dance, without seeming to consider whether any one observed them or not, as they danced only for amusement. Surprised and mortified, beyond expression, at the tribute which she felt herself unable to withhold, her vivacity soon entirely forsook her, by hearing the repeated exclamations of, "How beautifully Miss Frankland dances!—What a graceful couple she and Mr. Frederick Mackenzie make." Dancing was the accomplishment on which she particularly prided herself: and to meet thus with a rival in a sister,

whose education she had always been led to despise, was a shock which she had not at all expected, and the surprise only served to make the evil greater, for she had never before danced so ill herself.—I am quite astonished to see how beautiful Isabella dances! (said the captain to Miss Courtley, who stood near enough to Julia for her to overhear what was said.)

She dances very tolerably, certainly (answered that lady); but her's is far short of her sister's fashionable manner.

I must confess, (returned the captain,) that I like Isabella's style much the best. Julia has more of the foreign air, it is true; but there are few people, I think, who would not prefer the easy simple elegance of Isabella's appearance. I declare, I never saw her look so handsome in my life, though she seems quite unconscious that she is likely to be admired. This was a bitter pill for Julia to swallow: she who was so unaccustomed to a rival, to find it in her simple, unfashionable sister. The thought rankled in her mind like a poisoned arrow; and, as soon as the dance was done, she sat down, complaining of fatigue, though, in reality, only out of humour at what she was ashamed to acknowledge.

Frederick tells me, that you expected great amusement from watching his performance (said Isabella, coming up to her soon after): I hope you have not been disappointed. Do you not think he dances like one who has never studied any thing but mathematical recreations.

Oh! both of you dance far too well to afford any amusement in quizzing you (answered Julia, endeavouring to speak with the cheerfulness which she did not feel); and I am sadly disappointed at being obliged to admire, instead of to laugh.

Julia never in her life spoke with greater sincerity than in saying these words; but the two young men, putting a very different construction on her words, were delighted with her readiness to acknowledge her sister's excellencies, and never before admired her so much. Her quick observation soon discovered the nature of their sentiments; and she was restored, by their interpretation of them, to better humour, and went through the next dance with more spirit and animation. But, alas! those who feel a jealousy of the merits of others, are subject to continual mortifications; and it was not long before Julia's tranquillity was again disturbed. Frederick, and a young gentleman standing at no great distance from a group of ladies, of whom Julia and Isabella formed a part, and their conversation happening to turn upon music, of which Frederick was known both to be a scientific performer and a judge; the gentlemen mentioned a very fine piece, which, he said, Miss Julia Frankland played better than any one whom he had ever heard.

Did you ever hear her sister play? (asked Frederick.)

No (answered the gentleman); but I do not apprehend that Miss Frankland's performance will bear to be put in competition with her sister's.

I have no doubt of the abilities of the one (said Frederick); but I think I dare venture to say, that those of the other are at least fully equal. I can answer for this, that I never heard any one touch the keys with such exquisite taste as Miss Frankland does.

The gentleman appeared incredulous; and it was at length agreed, by the two, that the sisters should be asked to play, without the dispute being known,

that a fair judgment might be formed of the merits of each. A glance, which Julia gave at her sister at the conclusion of this conversation, convinced Isabella that she herself was not the only one who had heard the dispute, and the consequent agreement; and Julia saw equally well, by the modest tinge of Isabella's countenance, that she was acquainted with it. It was not long before music was proposed, during one of the pauses in dancing; and, after two or three others had been invited to lend their aid for the general amusement, Frederick's opponent came forward, and requested Julia to favour them with the piece which he had so often been delighted with her performing. Had the previous conversation not been overheard by her, she would have sat down to the instrument with the fullest confidence in her own powers, but Frederick's decided testimony in her sister's favour convinced her that she might expect an equal proficient at least—and, to one who had been accustomed to full and undivided admiration, the idea of equality was intolerable. Besides, she was conscious that Isabella was aware of the competition; and, though sensible that, whatever might be the opinions of the young men, they would not be expressed otherwise than in terms of high approbation of both, yet the idea that Isabella might read in the gentleman's countenance his conviction that Frederick was right, was misery to her. To refuse, however, was impossible, as it would be an acknowledgment that she had overheard the conversation; she therefore allowed herself to be led to the instrument; and, as she had no feelings of diffidence to contend with, she exerted herself to the utmost of her power, and threw her fingers over the keys with skill and execution, which astonished all

around her. Every body was ready, when she had finished, to applaud and admire,—and she saw her advocate give a look at Frederick, as if to say, Did he not yield? Frederick's countenance, however, shewed no inclination to do so; and it was not long before Isabella was applied to. I am glad I played first (said Julia); for I should have been sadly afraid to follow Isabella. Isabella saw in her countenance, though she managed to prevent its being visible to the less acute observers, the anxiety and jealousy which beat in her bosom, without, however, attempting to decline the compliment with which Julia had prefaced her sister's performance, with the idea that, where the expectations are much excited, disappointment is almost sure to succeed; she went to the instrument, and, placing herself at it, without a moment's hesitation, struck up the air of a comic song, which she accompanied with her voice with great spirit and vivacity. Every one's attention was seized—exclamations of, "Oh! how charming! What delightful humour!" resounded on all sides; whilst those who considered a fine piece of music a sad bore, and begrudged the praises which they thought themselves obliged to pay, broke into natural and unequivocal bursts of laughter and pleasure. Even Julia, when she saw all competition avoided, joined with readiness in the general applause; and, conscious of the delicacy which had directed her sister's conduct, she could not withhold from bestowing that admiration on her heart, which she had been afraid of being obliged to grant to her skill. That applause, however, though she saw it the tribute of all around her, Julia could not know her to be in the possession of without jealousy; for, though it was the kind of all others that her sister most prized,

it was such as she had never been accustomed to make the object of her ambition. As her skill and execution, therefore, had not been brought into question, Julia was again restored to good humour; and the rest of the evening went off with perfect satisfaction to all parties.

## CHAPTER IX.

The following morning, the young gentlemen having expressed a wish to shew their respect for the modest and amiable Mary Ann, by taking the earliest opportunity of calling upon her, the captain proposed that they should set off in a party, for that purpose, immediately after breakfast, which was readily acceded to by Isabella; but Miss Courtley and Julia pleaded another engagement, though, in fact, it was only that they felt no inclination to join in a tribute of respect to one, whom they could not help calling the young gentlemen's tastes in question for thinking of noticing. The captain was not at all satisfied at their declining; for, (said he,) I have no notion of friends having different pursuits and pleasures when there is nothing to prevent their going hand in hand. Miss Courtley, however, declared that it could not be avoided, and, as he made a point of setting his nieces an example of paying the utmost respect to her decisions, by yielding implicitly to them himself, he made no further objections; but desired Isabella to go and prepare for accompanying her cousins and himself to her friend's. This request was joyfully complied with, and Isabella very soon entered the room quite ready to set off.

My dear Isabella, (said Julia, when her sister made her appearance, equipped in her walking dress,) I hope you intend to have mercy on our good cousins, and not annoy them with the sight of that self-same dress all the days of their sojourning here, as you have done us for the last two months, for I am sure they will be most dreadfully tired of looking at it.

Perhaps we should, (said Douglas,) if we had only the dress itself to look at; but, whilst it has so pleasing an accompaniment, I do not think we should deserve much pity.

Nay, now I shall be quite provoked, (answered Julia,) if you say any thing to encourage her in her plan of wearing her clothes till even the house-maid would not thank her for them; for I was in hopes you would have assisted me in getting this dress discarded, which I am sure has done its duty completely.

There is no need of any persuasion (said Isabella, good temperedly); for I had already determined, before you spoke, to beg you to accompany me to the milliners to-morrow morning, and assist me with your taste in the choice of a new one.

Oh! I am sure I am thankful to hear of that resolution (said Julia, with an air of pretended gravity); for I am weary of your being the same, yesterday, to-day, and to-morrow.

I should rather have thought, (said Frederick, looking with kind admiration at Isabella for her good-tempered forbearance,) that you would have been inclined to say, as Brutus did of his mistress, if you had even had as long a trial—

> For five long years each day she met my view,
> And every day I seemed to see her new.

A summons from the captain now hurried off the party,—and Julia was left with a strong wish to persuade herself that her cousins were two tame, spiritless, tasteless, sort of beings, whose good opinion was not worth possessing, though the anxiety she felt to appear to advantage before them was the strongest proof to the contrary.

On the return of the walkers, they found Julia engaged with her constant companions, the Miss Freelys,—and the rest of the day was passed as pleasantly as people of opposite tastes and pursuits usually spend it, when condemned to be together.

Isabella felt frequent and deep concern at the great intimacy between her sister and those young ladies, whose frivolous manners and uninformed minds made them very undesirable associates; nor would they, she was sure, ever have gained so much favour with Julia, who was infinitely their superior in abilities and information, had it not been that they flattered her vanity, and encouraged her favourite propensities. The intimacy, however, received Miss Courtley's sanction; and, therefore, it was hopeless to think of dissolving the union.

As soon as breakfast was finished, the next morning, Isabella begged Julia to fulfil her promise of going to the milliner's, as she wished to be home again by the time of Mary Ann Hulme's arrival, whom her uncle had engaged to spend the day with them,—and they hastened up stairs to prepare for that purpose. Isabella, however, had scarcely got into her own room, before Julia followed her, to beg she would lend her five pounds for a few hours, as Liddle the housekeeper had come to her for some money, and she had no small notes by her at pre-

sent. Isabella gave the money, but immediately began to hesitate about the propriety of ordering the pelisse and bonnet as she had intended; for she could not help feeling a strong suspicion, that asking for the loan was, with Julia, only an easy way of demanding a gift, as she had several times before applied to her for smaller sums, without taking any notice afterwards of the debt.

When Isabella resigned her office of house-keeper, she had five pounds of the money which she had saved whilst in that situation, and two remaining from her own allowance, which, in addition to the fifteen which she at that time received from her uncle, made her mistress of twenty-two. Out of that she had already spent three pounds, which, with the second five she had just given to Julia, left her in possession of only fourteen; from which, if she paid six or eight for the dress she was about to order, she was afraid of being more straightened than she liked to be the remainder of the quarter, of which, not yet six weeks were elapsed, even should she be free from any further application from Julia, of which she could not feel at all certain. She was engaged in these calculations, when her sister re-entered the room, and expressed surprise at her not being ready. You were in such a hurry, (said Julia,) that Miss Courtley and I have been bustling ourselves to death almost, to prepare for accompanying you, and now here you are standing in a brown study, as if you had never thought of going out.

Miss Courtley and you are both very good to take so much trouble to oblige me, (answered Isabella,) but I have half changed my mind, and think I must take a little more time before I enter upon the ex-

pedition that I had in contemplation; for, (added she, smiling,) it is a momentous thing, you know, for me to part with so much money.

I suppose, (said Julia,) you are afraid that the money which you have just lent me will not be repaid, but you may keep yourself easy on that score, for it is not because I have not money myself, that I borrowed of you; but only because I had nothing but fifty pound notes, which I could not get changed immediately, but I shall send James to the bank as soon as I return, for change of one, and repay you all that I owe you. This was sufficient to remove Isabella's scruples; and, unwilling that Julia should think she had suspected her, she begged she would not put herself to any trouble about repaying her, as any time, within a week or two, would do for her: she had only been afraid that it might put her to inconvenience to give it her back as soon as she might stand in need of it. They then set off to the milliner's, where Isabella was assailed with a variety of temptations, and assured by Julia, as she shewed her a number of fashionable articles, that they were absolutely necessary. Isabella, however, steadily withstood them all; and positively refused to give any further orders than those which brought her thither. Whilst they were thus engaged, the Miss Freelys entered the shop. Oh! I am glad you are here (cried the eldest of them, on seeing Julia, and immediately ran back to the shop door, and returned with a paper in her hand). A poor woman has just been presenting this petition to us (said she, offering a paper to Julia). We each of us gave her what we could afford; and I was just regretting that you were not here for the poor woman's sake,—for I know you would have a pleasure in relieving her, and could do

it much more effectually than we are able to do. Julia took the paper; but, before she had time to read it, the woman came forward and told her case, which she made out to be a very deplorable one.

Isabella, after making some further enquiries, took out her purse, and was about to give half a crown, at the same time that she asked a particular direction where to find her house, that she might satisfy herself of the truth of her story, before she gave her any more; but had not accomplished her intentions, when Julia, taking a guinea out of her purse, was about to offer it to the woman, when Isabella, in an under voice, advised her not to give so much before she had made enquiries into the truth of the account which the woman had given of herself.

That mode of proceeding may do well enough for those who wish for an excuse for keeping their money, (replied Julia, in a voice sufficiently loud for all who were in the shop to hear); but I feel too much pleasure in giving, to wish for any apology,—I beg you will not therefore attempt to make your feelings the rule for mine.

I only wish you to be convinced of the truth of the statement, (remonstrated Isabella,) before you give so large a sum of money. To give so liberally to unworthy objects is only to encourage imposture, and cheat the more deserving of the assistance which is their due.

And, whilst we are satisfying ourselves, the poor family are to be left to starve (retorted Julia).

No! (answered Isabella;) I would give as much as would prevent their enduring any additional hardship till I could go to visit them, which there is nothing to prevent our doing immediately, as the woman has described herself as living very near our

own house; and then, should her account prove true, we should have a better idea, on seeing the family altogether, in what manner to serve them most effectually.

All this is very well (said Julia, in a sneering tone,) for those who wish to do good at as little expense as possible,—or, in other words, to go to heaven without paying the price of the journey; but, for my part, I have no relish for such economy, and must therefore be allowed to give my money in my own way.—And, as she spoke, she gave the woman the guinea, who blessed her and called her an angel, and the Miss Freelys and Miss Courtley praised her generosity, though the latter forbore to offer any thing herself; and Isabella, as the woman had got more than was immediately needed for the necessities of her family, till she went to enquire further about her, which she intended to do as soon as she got home, returned the half crown into her purse, in spite of the looks of contempt which she saw exchanged between her sister and her companions, which she was determined should not frighten her into doing what her own judgment did not sanction.

Oh! look here! (exclaimed Miss Caroline Freely, who had strayed to the other side of the shop during the short dispute between the two sisters, and was looking at some pieces of foreign silk, which a woman had just brought in to offer for sale,) come and look at this beautiful silk, I never saw any thing so pretty and so cheap in my life. The rest of the party all flocked immediately to her, and all agreed in admiring its beauty.

But you do not know how cheap it is (said Miss Caroline); only think, she a ks no more than four

guineas for each of those pieces, and they are either of them enough to make two dresses.

They are cheap, indeed (answered Julia). You and I must certainly take one between us, Isabella.

No! (said Isabella,) I have not the least occasion for any thing of the kind; nor do I think it is at all more necessary to you.

You certainly would not think of missing such a bargain (cried Julia, in a tone of astonishment). To think of an elegant dress for two guineas! It would certainly be madness to lose it.

You know, (answered Isabella, gently, but firmly,) I never think any thing cheap, that I know I have not any occasion for, and that would put me to an inconvenience to purchase.

I am sure, (said Miss Freely,) I am sorry to let such a bargain slip through my fingers, for it is what both my sister and I wanted of all things,—but only we have both spent all our money, and shall not have any more due to us for almost a month.

You must give me leave, then, (said Julia, with a gracefulness of manner becoming a more praiseworthy occasion,) to present you with one of them. Provided, (added she, turning to the woman,) you will trust me till the evening, and will come to me for the money at home? I will then take both the pieces of silk; and Miss Courtley, I hope, will do me the favour to accept of a gown off the other.

The woman, satisfied that there was not much reason to fear a discovery of her unlawful merchandize, as Julia had thus, by the purchase, become herself a partner in it, agreed to call in the evening at Captain Darnley's; only cautioning Julia not to mention what sort of goods the money was for in the

presence of any of the servants, or any other person in whom she had not full confidence. They now returned home; and Isabella, oppressed with extreme anxiety at the display of imprudence which she had witnessed, and the fear of the difficulties into which Julia was plunging, would gladly have endeavoured to draw her on to some reflections upon the proceedings of the morning. But Julia hated to think, particularly when thought was only to cause self-condemnation; and therefore checked Isabella's efforts, by begging that she would be satisfied with managing her own concerns, which she had no doubt she did with the nicest economy, and leave her to take care of herself. When they got to the door, Isabella mentioned her wish to go to enquire after the poor woman, whom Julia had ceased to think of from the time that she had given the money; and Miss Courtley made no other objection, than saying that she was too much tired to accompany her herself, and begged that she would take James instead, which Isabella was very willing to do, and was just turning from the door, accompanied by the servant, when she was met by Mary Ann Hulme; and her friend no sooner heard the expedition on which she was going, than she offered to join her. "I think I will go too" (said Julia, who was seized with a desire to see how the quaker would behave when called upon for charity). They all three set off, therefore; and, as the place where the woman had directed Isabella was not at any great distance, they soon arrived there; and, it having been very particularly described, there was not the least difficulty in finding the very room in which the woman said she lived. On enquiring, however, for a person of the name mentioned, (which Isabella, determined not to trust to her

memory, had written down on a card, with the number of the house and room,) no such person was to be heard of; and, convinced that the woman had been an impostor, of which Isabella, from some things in her manner, had before entertained strong suspicions, they were turning to go down stairs again, when a shriek of distress met their ears, as if from a room on the landing below. "What is that?" (cried Isabella, with a look of horror.)

I am afraid it is the sergeants come to seize upon a poor man who lives in the room under mine, (said the woman,) of whom they had before been making their enquiries, and he is so ill, that, if they take him to jail, it must be his death. It was his poor wife who gave that shriek; for I dare say, poor woman, it will break her heart to have him taken from her. She has worked as hard as her strength would allow her, to keep him and her two poor little helpless children. She makes artificial flowers, and has business enough; but, alas! the ladies who employ her are not like you, young ladies,—they do not think of the sufferings of the poor; and, when she has done her work, she very often cannot get her money from them. There is one lady who owes her three pounds at this very moment, to my knowledge, which, if she could have got, would have gone a great way towards saving her poor husband from jail. Julia's complexion, whilst the woman was speaking, underwent a variety of changes from red to pale, and from pale to red. Isabella, charmed with the sensibility which the variety of hues of Julia's face evinced, attributing it to the recollection that she had wasted upon an unworthy impostor what would have gone far towards saving these poor and deserving people from such exquisite mi-

sery, was about to tell her that she would be her banker for what sum she might wish to assist them with, when she was interrupted by Mary Ann,—Let us make haste, and see if we can do any thing for them (said she, her countenance shewing the strongest marks of commiseration and compassion). Isabella was equally ready with herself; and they were hastening down stairs, when Julia stopped them, and said, with great agitation, I cannot bear the idea of witnessing such a scene of distress; it is too much for my feelings. I will leave you, therefore, to go by yourselves, and will wait for you at the street-door.

Though neither Mary Ann nor Isabella had been accustomed to encourage that kind of sensibility which shrinks from the sight of distress, when there is a possibility of relieving it, either by help or sympathy, Julia's agitation was too evident for them to urge her, and they therefore parted, they going into the room, to which they were directed by the sounds of misery, and Julia making all the haste in her power down stairs, followed by the servant. It is impossible to describe the scene of distress which presented itself to the young friends on their entering the room. The poor woman, on seeing the officer of justice enter the room and take hold of her husband as their prisoner, had uttered the scream of distress which had resounded through the house, and, throwing herself at their feet in an attitude of supplication, overcome by her feelings, had sunk fainting on the floor. Their two children, though unable to understand what was the matter, alarmed at the appearance of the stranger and the sight of their mother's lifeless form, were crying piteously, and clinging to their father's knee, whom, though too weak to sup-

port himself, the officer had raised from his chair, and was attempting to get away, whilst his eyes were fixed with a look of unalterable anguish on the pallid face of his wife, whom he only begged to stay to see restored to life before he left her.

You had better go now when she is insensible (said the man, in a tone of compassion, for his heart was far from being as cruel as his office).

You surely would not think of taking him away in such a state (said Isabella, going forward to him, whilst Mary Ann, snatching up a basin of water which stood on a table near, ran to bathe the temples of the fainting woman, and whilst she did so she spoke in a soothing tone to the weeping children who seemed to feel the influence of her soft voice and sweet countenance, and began gradually to cease their cries).

I cannot help it, ma'am, (said the man, in a tone of concern,) I do no more than my duty.

But you need not prosecute it with cruel diligence (remonstrated Isabella). Let this poor man sit down again, and give him time to overcome the shock he has received, before you think of tearing him away.

It will only be the harder to go the longer I stay, I believe, (said the man, resolutely endeavouring to muster up courage to go,) and I can leave these unhappy beings with more ease now, that I see they are in the hands of mercy and compassion.

What is the sum you are arrested for ? (asked Isabella.)

Four pounds, ma'am (replied the man).

Mary Ann, who was still on her knees bathing the poor woman's temples, who began to shew some signs of life, starting up at the sound of these words,—her eyes beaming with animation, Thou art free

then, (said she,) thy debt shall be discharged immediately,—and, taking out her purse, the money was paid, and a receipt given, almost before the poor man, who had found this sudden release not much easier to bear than the first shock, was sufficiently recovered to thank his benefactor. Isabella, who had taken the task of assisting the woman, now so far succeeded as to get her to sit up, when, collecting her scattered senses, she seemed to recollect what had passed, and looked around, as if in fear of either seeing the man still there, or her husband gone; her eyes first rested upon his countenance, which was expressive of nothing but joy and gratitude. Mary Ann, stooping down and wiping the tears from the faces of the children, whom her gentle soothings had quite restored to composure, and thinking that a shower of tears would be the best relief to the poor woman's overcharged heart, and that nothing was so likely to produce this effect as her children's caresses, she desired them to go to their mother, and tell her, that she might be happy, for their father was not going to be taken from them. Nor was she wrong in her conjecture, for, clasping her arms around them, she burst into a flood of tears, which neither of the young friends attempted to interrupt, till, at length, her agitation began of itself to subside, and she was able to understand what had been done for them, and to bless the kind hands which had administered the happy relief.

Isabella now asked if the man had any medical advice?

No, ma'am, (answered the woman,) I have never been able to prevail upon him to let me send for a doctor. He always said, I had enough to do to get bread for us all whilst he was unable to work, with-

out having the expense of a doctor added to the rest; and that nothing but a cold was the matter with him. And to be sure a cold it was, for he got it by standing four or five hours in the rain, waiting to appeal from the militia, which he had a right to do on account of a lame leg he has. It brought on a low fever, that has kept him confined to the house, and very often to his bed, ever since, and it is now more than a twelvemonth ago. The misfortune has been, his not having proper things to nourish and strengthen him, for he has always been so much afraid of depriving us, that he would never let me get any thing better for him than I got for myself and the children, not considering that we were in health, and could do with the commonest food.

And you see, (said the man,) in spite of all my care, it would not all do, for we were soon obliged to run into debt with the person that we get most of our food of. In spite of all my poor wife could do, the debt got greater and greater, till they refused at last to let us have any more, and, after dunning us every week for the last six months, as they said they knew my wife got a great deal of trade for her flowers, they at last pretended to think it was merely that we did not chuse to pay; for they could not be persuaded that genteel people were as bad payers as the poorest can be,—and therefore sent to arrest me; when I must have been forced to go to prison, had it not pleased the Almighty to send us such timely help.

The next care (said Isabella,) must be to get you restored to the power of assisting your wife in working for your family; I shall, therefore, send a surgeon in the course of the day, and you must allow your wife to get whatever he recommends for you.

Then, putting a pound note into the woman's hand, the two friends took leave, promising to see them again very soon; and followed by the blessings of the grateful and now happy family. When they got down stairs, they found James waiting for them: he had been to see Miss Julia home, he said, and had just returned for them. As they went along, they entered into a friendly arrangement about the money which had been given for the relief of the poor people, of which Isabella insisted upon bearing her share, to which Mary Ann for some time objected; but, finding at last that it would be a gratification to her friend, she yielded, and it was agreed that Isabella should give her fifty shillings, which would make an equal division of what had been given between them, and that any further expense which might be incurred on the same occasion should also be shared in the same way. When they got home, they found Julia perfectly recovered from her agitation, and, not seeming to remember where they had been, or what had detained them so long, she made no enquiries. Isabella, however, imagining that she would be interested in hearing the state in which they had left the poor family, for which she had shewn such unequivocal marks of feeling, was beginning to give her an account of the transactions; but Julia immediately stopped her, saying, I have no doubt that you have acted like heroines, and met with scenes of distress greater than were ever met with before; but I must beg to be excused the trouble of hearing them described, for I am quite tired of having so many dismals to digest this morning. It is not at all congenial with my nature.

What is that (said Douglas, who, with his bro-

ther, at that moment entered the room,) that is so disagreeable to my gay cousin, Julia?

To be wise and solemn, (returned Julia, turning off the subject with ready address,) and never to say or do any thing without thinking an hour about it first.

And would it be impossible to teach you to do and say wise things without me dictating so long beforehand? (asked Frederick, laughing.) Will it not be possible to fill that head so full of wisdom, that it will flow spontaneously whenever it is needed.

There is already a great deal more in it than Julia is willing to acknowledge, (said Mary Ann,) and I am in hopes that it is daily filling.

I allow (returned Julia,) that there is a great deal poured in daily. But, (added she, turning to Mary Ann with an arch smile,) do you recollect what was the work of the Danaides?

Yes! (answered Mary Ann, laughing.) It was to fill a tub, with holes in it, full of water.

Then just such a task will they have to perform who attempt to fill this pericranium full of wisdom, (said Julia, adjusting the curls of her hair at a glass, as she spoke.) For folly has made so many holes that it is incapable of retaining what is put into it, for any length of time.

I do not so despair; but hope one day or other to see thee all that we could wish thee to be (said Mary Ann).

Not unless you can manage to inoculate me with quakerism, and then, indeed, I should be perfection itself, (returned Julia, changing her tone of good-tempered joke into that of bitter sarcasm, for, though she could talk with great frankness of her own faults, with the expectation that she should by that means

convert censure into admiration, she could not bear that Mary Ann should be so willing to acknowledge that she was not already all that she needed to be.)

Yes, (replied Mary Ann, with a look and voice of the most perfect good temper,) provided we could give thee the perfect part of the quaker character in exchange for the imperfect ones of thy own.

This gentle reply did not restore Julia's good-humour, for she saw every eye turned towards the amiable quaker with an expression of admiration and pleasure; and, provoked beyond measure at thus being eclipsed, she took up a book which lay near her, to play with its leaves, and thus hide her chagrin.—The book happened to be one which Frederick had been reading in the morning, and, looking at it, she perceived it to be Latin.—Here is a paragraph which has been marked with a pencil as something remarkable, I see, (said she,) I should like exceedingly to know what it is. Will you oblige me, Mary Ann, by translating it for me?

Thou wouldst not surely think of putting that task upon me, (said Mary Ann, modestly,) when there are so much better scholars in the room.

Oh! but I wish to have the favour from you, (returned Julia, who, imagining that Mary Ann's reluctance arose from a consciousness of inability, was, therefore, the more eager in her solicitations, from the no very charitable hope of exposing Mary Ann to some of that mortification which had so lately been inflicted on herself.) You know I have always had a great dislike to the idea of a woman's being a Latin scholar, and wish to be reconciled to it by seeing you shine as one.

Thou couldst not then, I believe, have chosen a better passage for removing thy prejudices, (replied

Mary Ann, and, without making any unnecessary scruples or excuses, she translated, in an easy and ready manner, the following passage from Erasmus:)—"The vulgar are of opinion that the Latin language is not suitable to females, because it does little to preserve their virtue, and because it is not common for a female to know it. But knowledge conquers all vices! It is common for a native female of Germany to understand French, and she talks with those who know French; why, therefore, should it be indecorous to know Latin, and converse daily with authors so eloquent, so learned, so wise, so worthy to be consulted. I am certain, how weak so ever the head, there is much less evil in these good studies than in a prayer spoken without thought in nights of banquetting, or in wasting the fortune of a parent."

Translated in a manner that would do credit to a college (said Frederick, as Mary Ann finished).

I never heard any thing translated with more grace, (cried Douglas, fixing his eyes with a look of warm admiration on Mary Ann's modest but independent countenance; and wondering, as he did so, that he could ever before have looked at her without thinking her handsome).

Aye, you are all very clever and very learned, (said Julia,) and make me ready to sink with shame at my own ignorance. Even Isabella there (added she, provoked at the expression of satisfaction which she saw in her sister's countenance at the credit with which her friend had acquitted herself,) looks with contempt on her unlearned sister.

From what authority do you make that assertion? (asked Isabella, mildly,)—not, I am sure, from experience.

Oh! I know very well it is so (returned Julia, in an undisguised look and tone of sarcastic ill-nature). You look with contempt on my butterfly qualifications,—the mere *ephemeron* of the day; whilst you wade with unwearied patience through the pages of learning, with the expectation, no doubt, when dead, of living as a literary phenomenon in the annals of posterity.

It is a happy thing for me (answered Isabella, with perfect mildness and gentleness,) that I have no such thirst for posthumous fame, as I certainly do not possess any qualifications that could obtain it. To be loved whilst living by the very few friends who know me, is all that I either expect or desire.

And dost thou think (said Mary Ann, laying her hand on her friend's, and pressing it affectionately,) thou wouldst not be remembered and regretted as long as one of them lived?

Yes! (answered Isabella, returning her friend's pressure, and looking at her with an affectionate smile,) as long at least as you remain to be my "bul-bul."

I had rather sing to thee whilst thou canst hear me, (said Mary Ann.) I will approve thy virtues, whilst thou shalt in return approve my song.

A pause now ensued, for every one was engaged with their own reflections. Julia felt that her evil genius was at work with her at all sides, and was afraid again to venture to throw a dart, lest it should again recoil upon herself. Frederick was thinking how far Mary Ann was right in supposing that Isabella would be remembered and loved as long as one remained who had ever known her,—the truth of which his own feelings fully confirmed; and Douglas was contrasting the bitter and envious Julia, who had on his first

acquaintance struck him as possessing all that was beautiful and engaging, but whom he now could scarcely think pretty,—with the modest and unassuming Mary Ann, whose first appearance was the only one which gave the idea of plainness, for a mind illumined to beautify a person, in other respects, unprepossessing. Mary Ann, on her part, having taken up a piece of paper which lay on the table near her, and placing it on the book which she still held in her hand, amused herself for a few minutes with writing upon it, and then put it into Isabella's hand, who, having read it, gave her a smile of acknowledgment; and, folding it up, put it into her bosom. This circumstance again roused Julia's jealousy; and, as we are ever apt to suspect others of what we felt a propensity for ourselves, she was persuaded that Mary Ann had been amusing herself with some satirical remarks upon her; and, desirous of having it proved that she was not the only one who was capable of ill-nature, she said,—I declare against that underhand mode of communication. It is not fair to task people without giving them an opportunity of benefitting by the correction.

Thou surely dost not suppose that I have been lashing any one! (said Mary Ann, with a look of surprise.)

The best way of convincing us of the mistake will be to let us be equally favoured with Isabella, and know the contents of that paper, for I own I have my suspicions (answered Julia).

Then, though its contents are not worthy of a moment's attention, I must beg, Isabella, that thou wilt allow Frederick to read it; which is a task, I believe, that he will not dislike.

I believe, (said Frederick, as he took the paper

from Isabella, who gave it to him, with a deep blush,) I ought to disclaim any wish to see it, but must confess that I, like Julia, have a strong curiosity to know its contents.

Oh! yes, read it certainly, (cried Douglas, with a pretended look of gravity,) and let the writer be punished for doing ill-natured things by having them exposed.

Frederick then read the following verses:—

Think not, my friend, that thou art doomed to move
In this wide earth unheeded and unknown,—
That, if stern death should call thee to remove,
None in thy loss would mourn a blessing gone.

What, though no splendid actions mark thy days,
And fill the gazing world with wondering awe,
Virtue's mild beams will spread their purer rays,
And love's mild influence to thy centre draw.

Thine are the actions which give life a grace,
Which, though we wonder not, with joy we view;
That fill with usefulness life's narrow space,
And, always pleasing, seem for ever new.

Oft, when the splendid meteor strikes our eyes,
Our breasts with wonder and amazement swell;
But no delight is mixed with our surprize,
For none, in viewing, can its purpose tell.

But see the midnight sailor grateful gaze
On that small star which guides his course aright;
With calm delight he views its tranquil rays,
And blesses Heaven that gave the useful light.

The sound of the dinner-bell, just as Frederick had finished reading these few simple verses, came very seasonably to Isabella and Julia, who neither of them felt any wish to have them commented upon; and the party all hastened into the dinner-room, where they were joined by the captain, good-tem-

pered and cheerful as usual, who sat down amongst his young companions with as much pride and pleasure as a fond father would, when surrounded by a numerous and promising offspring. "Upon my word, girls, (said he, looking round first at his nieces, and then at Mary Ann, as they took their seats at the table,) you are all three so highly rouged, that I am almost inclined to touch your cheeks with my handkerchief to try whether any of it would come off."

You need not trouble yourself, Sir, (said Douglas,) for I can answer for its being all ingrained colour, for I saw it put on myself.

What were the ingredients made use of? (asked the captain,) for, the colour is so fine, I should like to know its composition.

That you shall with pleasure, (said Douglas, who was so much irritated against Julia for her behaviour, that he was determined to give her the retort courteous, and therefore proceeded, disguising the irony of his meaning, which he did not wish his uncle to discover, satisfied with its being known to her against whom it was directed.) You must know then, Sir, that Miss Hulme was observed by Julia to write something on a paper, and then gave it to Isabella, who, after reading it, instead of making it known to the rest of the party as Julia naturally expected, folded it up and put it by. Julia, therefore, immediately conjectured that it was some compliment to her sister, which Isabella's modesty would not allow her to make known. But, being resolved that we should enjoy the pleasure of hearing her praised, she pretended to think it was some satirical remarks on the company that Miss Hulme had been writing, and demanded its being read aloud, which the writer was obliged, by way of clearing her character, to comply

with. It proved, however, to be as Julia expected, a very handsome compliment to Isabella ; and, though the poetry was not such as any one needed to have been ashamed of, it being read aloud in her presence is no doubt the cause of Miss Hulme's blushes: Isabella's arose from the necessity she was under of sitting to hear herself praised, even though Frederick was the speaker, from whom she is so much accustomed to hear such things ; and, as for Julia, you may easily imagine her's to be the flush of pleasure at finding that she was not the only person who knew her sister's worth, and delighted in praising it.—She was happy.

Douglas, (cried Frederick, determined to interrupt him, for Julia's countenance shewed the state of her feelings, and Frederick had none of his brother's severity of indignation about him,) I have waited till I am tired for an opportunity of asking you to help me to a slice of tongue, but your own occupies your attention so much, that you neglect the one you have to carve.—And then resolving, when he had got leave to speak, to keep the conversation in his own hands, he turned to his uncle, before Douglas had time to begin again, and asked him if he had heard of the attempt which was said to have been made upon the Duke of Wellington. This had the desired effect of turning the captain's thoughts, for any thing which concerned his favourite hero, never failed to interest him, and the rest of the afternoon was spent in general conversation.

## CHAPTER X.

In the evening, Julia, who had previously been summoned out of the room, soon after sent a servant to tell Isabella that she wished to speak with her a few minutes. "Miss Julia is waiting for you in the breakfast room, ma'am" (said the servant). Thither Isabella hastened, with too strong a suspicion of the nature of the business to be much surprised, when Julia said, I have sent for you, Isabella, to beg that you will lend me some more money, for the woman has called to be paid for the pieces of silk, and I neglected to get change as I intended to-day, and, therefore, have not money to pay her with. I will thank you then if you will lend me eight pounds more till to-morrow.

I am sorry (said Isabella,) to seem to make any demur about accommodating you with money whilst I have it. But I must be obliged to say that, if I do not receive it back again in a day or two, it will put me to great inconvenience.

Oh! you shall have it, you may depend upon it, to-morrow (said Julia).

Will you allow me to add another word by way of remonstrance, (added Isabella, in a gentle tone, unwilling to give pain, yet conscious that it was her duty to endeavour to convince her sister of her imprudence in squandering away her money in the manner that she had witnessed that day, and which she was afraid was only a specimen of almost every pre-

vious one.) You are not, I am sure, aware of the difficulties which you are plunging yourself into.

As to difficulties, (answered Julia, in a light, careless manner,) you need not be afraid of that, for I assure you they will never arrive. You know I have only to write to Lady Ann when I want money, and she will send me some directly. And, by the bye, I think I will write to her in a day or two, for I dare say I shall need some soon.

I wish I could prevail on you to depend upon yourself instead of Lady Ann, and then there would be no fear of a disappointment.

That there is not the least fear of, as it is, I assure you. It is well known that her ladyship has a great income, and we all know equally well that she is no miser.

I am not so sure of that (answered Isabella); Lady Ann spends too much upon her own gratifications to have much to spare for others. Besides, you know, she is no longer her own mistress.

I see, (cried Julia,) that you are determined to conjure up a thousand difficulties, but I know that they are needless; so give me the money like a good girl, (added she, with as much ease of manners as though her uniform kindness to her sister had given her a right to expect every favour from her;) for the woman will be out of patience, as I am already.

Isabella went and brought the money, which Julia almost snatched from her, and ran to settle with the woman, whilst Isabella hastened to obey a summons to join her uncle, Miss Courtley, and Frederick, in a rubber at whist, of which the captain was exceedingly fond; and, though neither of the young people would have chosen to spend their time in that manner for their own pleasure, they were always ready

to oblige their kind uncle, to whom they were conscious of owing more obligations than it was in their power to repay. "What have you been busy about so long?" (asked the captain, as Isabella entered the room.) "We have been sending some things to a poor family that we discovered this morning." (answered Julia, who followed her sister in time enough to hear her uncle's question, and was eager to prevent Isabella's reply, lest she should by any means discover the truth, when she was sure that her uncle would be displeased at her purchasing smuggled goods.)

Well, that is a better excuse than I expected you to be able to give, (said the captain,) and does not need to be blushed at, Isabella, (added he, seeing the deep crimson of Isabella's cheeks at having to appear to acquiesce in her sister's falsehood, whilst she was afraid of Mary Ann's asking if any thing more had happened about the poor family, and drawing Julia into any further duplicity, and her into the appearance of sanctioning it.) But Mary Ann was too quick in discernment not to see that there was something in the business that Isabella did not approve of, and, therefore, took no notice of what passed. Isabella's mind was too much occupied for her to acquit herself well at whist, and her uncle, who was her partner, had often to call her to account for the mistakes she made. At length, after losing the rubber, he threw down the cards, and declared she was a blockhead, and that he would play no more with her, and the next moment patted her back, saying, if she lost the game, there was one good thing about her she never lost,—her temper; and the rest of the evening was spent in conversation; for Julia, who was not in the habit of doing violence to her inclinations, declined taking Isabella's cards, and Douglas played so

ill, that the captain declared that it would be making bad worse to take him for a substitute.

The next morning, Isabella, who always was up some hours before the female part of the family, was going past the housekeeper's room, when she heard herself called on in a low voice, and, looking about, she saw Liddle beckon to her to come back, which she immediately did.—I beg pardon, ma'am, for taking the liberty of calling you back, (said the worthy Liddle;) but I think it my duty to tell you how Miss Julia is going on, and get you to speak to her and advise her to settle her accounts. You know, ma'am, there is nothing would make my master so angry as to find that the tradesmen's bills were not paid. And I have never been able to get Miss Julia to settle one of them since she had the keeping of the money, which is now almost six weeks, and the bills are getting very large. And, as to my own accounts, though Miss Julia complains every time I have to ask her for money, and says she is sure I must be very extravagant, I cannot prevail upon her to look at one of them. She always says she has not time then, but she will do it to-morrow; but to-morrow, when it comes, is not a bit better than the day before was; and, indeed, I am afraid, ma'am, that if there is not some account taken of how things stand, before long there will be a very disagreeable reckoning, and that would make my master very much displeased both with Miss Julia and me. It is very different from the way that you used to do, ma'am: settling your accounts, and paying your bills every week, which made it so easy to keep things comfortable and straight, that even I, who am but a bad accountant, never was at any loss.

Isabella forbore to make any remarks to her sister's disadvantage, but merely desired Liddle

to send to the different trades-people for their bills, and give them to her, when she would get her sister to settle them. She then left the room with a heavy heart, as she dreaded the investigation, which, however, she was determined to make immediately, as she was sure that every day would only make the evil the greater; and the rest of the morning was spent in painful conjectures about the extent of Julia's debts, and how far her means were likely to be able to answer them. In this, however, she was quite at a loss by what rule to form her judgment; for, though Julia had talked of fifty pound notes, she could not tell how many she had of them, nor, indeed, after the proof which she had received the night before of the ease with which she could tell a direct falsehood, could she feel any confidence in her not having deceived her altogether. When she appeared at the breakfast-table, therefore, she felt it impossible to appear in her usual spirits, which she accounted for by pleading a head-ache; nor was it indeed a mere excuse, for the painful reflections in which she had been engaged, had brought one on. Frederick, however, who was well acquainted with all the variations of her countenance, saw that her indisposition was more mental than bodily, and he kept his eyes almost constantly fixed upon her with enquiring solicitude. "Do not look at me so earnestly, (whispered she, as they rose from the breakfast-table,) for you make me very uncomfortable."

That I would not do for the world (replied he). But tell me, can I do any thing to make you more comfortable than I see you are at present.

No! nothing, (answered Isabella, endeavouring to smile;) excepting, by not taking notice of any change which you may see in my countenance.

I have always, you know, been accustomed to your confidence, (returned Frederick,) and I hope I still retain it.

As far as I am myself concerned, (answered Isabella,) my earliest friend is still in undoubted possession of it; but you must not, at present, urge me any further, nor do or say any thing to excite my uncle's enquiries.

I am satisfied with that assurance, and will say no more on the subject, (said Frederick,) and, turning round, he began to talk upon indifferent topics with the rest of the party; and at length supposing, from what Isabella had said, that it would be a relief to her to have her uncle engaged at a distance from home, he proposed to him that they should go and make a call at a distant part of the town, which being agreed to, the two brothers and their uncle set off soon after. As soon as they were gone, Isabella went into Liddle's room, to say, that if she had the bills, she had then an opportunity of speaking to her sister about them.

I have sent for them, ma'am, (answered Liddle;) for I knew that when you said it should be looked after, it would be done. As she spoke, the servant, who had gone to collect them, returned with the bills, which, Isabella receiving, she went in search of Julia, whom she found in her own room, preparing to go out. "I hope you have no very particular engagement this morning, Julia, (said she,) for I have some important business for you to attend to."

You mean, I suppose, paying you the money that I owe you, which I intend to do, for I am just going to get this note changed for that purpose; and, as she spoke, she took a fifty pound note out of her desk.

But if you use that money for such a purpose, will there not be a danger of your not having enough left to pay the tradesmens' bills that are standing against you (asked Isabella).

Oh! they will soon be paid, (answered Julia;) they cannot be very great in so short a time.

Have you ever reckoned how much they are likely to be?

No! but I intend to have a settling with Liddle, to-morrow, and discharge them all.

I have been prevailed upon, by Liddle, to apply to you for that purpose this morning, (said Isabella;) and, in order that you might not have any temptation to put off so necessary a piece of work any longer, have already procured the accounts, which are here, and, as she spoke, she laid the papers on the table by her sister, who looked mortified, and at a loss what to say. I know, (added Isabella,) that you do not like settling accounts, and will therefore take the task off your hands, if you will allow me; for it is necessary that it should be done without loss of time, that you may know how you stand, before you get any further involved in debt. Let me beg of you, therefore, that you will frankly give me an account of all your debts, and of what money you have in your hand, when I will balance your accounts for you. Unless you will do that, I shall be obliged to make my uncle acquainted with my fears, that you are involving yourself to a very serious extent. Julia, who saw by Isabella's steady manner that she was determined, and convinced that it was no longer in her power to avoid an investigation, which she had never had resolution to set about of her own accord, now went to her desk, and, taking out another note, of the same amount as the former, and

one of twenty pounds value, "Here is my money, (said she;) and, as to my debts, you have an account of the most of them already in your hand."

Isabella's countenance brightened at the sight of the notes,—I had no expectation, (said she, with a look of pleasure,) that you had so much money remaining in your possession, and hope now that things are much better than I expected. She then examined Liddle's account of the money that she had laid out for incidental expenses, which were all clearly and distinctly stated, and which amounted to twelve pounds. This, with the money which she had in her hand, accounted for a hundred and thirty-two pounds of the hundred and fifty which Julia had received from her uncle, and Isabella now applied to her to know how the remaining eighteen had been disposed of. But, alas! Julia was unable to give any account: she could only say, that she had had a hundred things to pay money for, that she could not pretend to remember.—But all the money that has been laid out for the house, has gone through Liddle's hands, I perceive by her book (said Isabella): the remainder must therefore have been spent for other purposes.

I know, (said Julia, with great indifference,) I had several small debts which I had to pay off at the beginning of the quarter, and I suppose it has gone in that way, and in the purchase of things that I have since had occasion to buy.

But did you never consider (asked Isabella,) that you were spending money that had only been entrusted to you as a steward; and that you would be expected to give an account of your stewardship.

I know that very well; but I shall replace it all before my uncle knows any thing of the matter: for I

shall get money from Lady Ann long before that time.

You must expect an enormous sum from your banker, when you think of making up so many deficiencies through her means. Let me entreat you, however, not to trust to her any further, for I fear you have already gone too far; and remember, that after these bills are paid, which amount to sixty-two pounds, you will have only fifty-eight remaining for the rest of the quarter, which is sixteen pounds less than the first half has cost, that is now barely expired. You must not therefore think of spending one unnecessary shilling till the supplies come that you have built upon, if you do not wish to give my uncle an account of debts, without being able to say how the money has gone which ought to have discharged them.

That is more than I can possibly propose to do, (said Julia, who was very conscious of her own want of resolution;) for if I have money in my possession, and temptation comes in the way, I am afraid it will go as usual.

If you think it will be safer with me, and will resign the trust, I will do my best to bring you to the end of the quarter without any further embarrassments.

I wish most heartily you would, (cried Julia, with great eagerness,) for I am completely weary of it. Take the money, at least, all except a few pounds, which I must of course keep to answer my little necessary expenses; and, after you have paid yourself, there will still be enough remaining to answer the calls of the house, till I get money from Lady Ann to make up the deficiency.

No! (said Isabella,) I cannot allow you one farthing out of this money, for I do not, like you, place dependence on Lady Ann. But you will not, I hope, think me too rigorous, when I only serve you in the same manner that I shall do myself. For I shall not take any of the money you owe me from this.

What then can we either of us do? (asked Julia, in a tone of consternation.)

I have just three pounds remaining of my own money, (answered Isabella, with a look of as much gentleness as though her sister had never given her any cause of reproach,) and you shall have half of it, which you must contrive to make serve you till you either get money as you expect from Lady Ann, or we receive another quarter's allowance.

But what will you do about paying for your pelisse, for I know you always like to pay for things as soon as you get them? (enquired Julia.)

I will not have it at present, (answered Isabella.) You know it was not positively ordered, so that it will not put Miss Frill to any inconvenience for me to wait a few weeks longer; which I shall write a note immediately to let her know I intend doing.

And will you forego the gratification of an elegant new dress, just as you were almost in possession of it? (said Julia, with surprise;) and drag on with that which you have worn so long, merely because you cannot pay for it immediately?

If I were sure of seeing you free from debt at the end of the quarter, and of having my own money free from any deductions, (answered Isabella,) I should not think of declining it: but whilst I see a danger of your needing my assistance, at that time, I cannot think of incurring any unnecessary expense;

and unnecessary I certainly consider this, though I thought it right to order it out of compliment to my uncle's liberality, who has a right to expect that I should prove it by my dress. The pelisse, however, that I at present wear, is still sufficiently handsome to prevent any appearance of meanness, and as long as that is the case, I can wear it with perfect comfort.

You are far too good! and far too perfect! (exclaimed Julia, turning from her sister, and going towards the window, as if uneasy at the conviction which darted across her mind of the contrast between their characters.) I wish you were not so kind and gentle, that I might have the satisfaction of hating you.

Of hating me! (cried Isabella, with a look of horror).

Yes, (said Julia, turning round and looking at her with a mixture of shame and mortification in her countenance,) is it not very natural to hate any person who goes so nearly towards making one hate oneself.

Not natural, certainly, (answered Isabella;) for depend upon it, nature never committed such a mistake in her ordinations, as to make it natural for one sister to hate another.

It would certainly be a great comfort to me, however, if I could manage to hate you; for if I do not, I am afraid I shall be obliged to hate myself, and that would not be very agreeable, you must allow.

You shall never hate me, (said Isabella;) and I hope the day is not far distant, when both herself, and every body else who know her, shall love Julia Frankland more and better than they ever did before. It is only necessary for you to become fully

sensible of your faults; for your abilities are equal to the correction of much more serious ones than any, I hope, that you have to overcome.

They were now summoned down stairs to two ladies who called upon them, and the rest of the day was passed by Isabella with much more ease of mind than it had been begun; for she now hoped she should have it in her power to screen her sister's imprudence from her uncle, at the same time that she trusted Julia had received a caution, which would serve to keep her within moderate bounds for the future.

As Isabella had made Julia promise not to purchase any thing on credit, on pain of a full disclosure of the whole affair to her uncle, which she said she should feel herself called upon to make, in order to prevent her committing acts of dishonesty,—in which light she should look upon her contracting debts which she had no means of paying,—she could ill have brooked being so confined in her circumstances, had she not been persuaded, that a few days' endurance were all to which she was likely to be doomed. She had written to Lady Ann, and had no doubt that her letter would be answered immediately, and would bring her a happy release from all her embarrassments. Day after day, however, passed over, after the necessary time for the return of the post had elapsed, without the expected answer arriving; at length, out of patience, and suspecting that her letter must have been miscarried, she wrote a second, and much more urgent one. Still, however, no reply appeared; and, at a loss to account for the circumstance, she became exceedingly restless and uneasy. Isabella had often observed, during this period, that her sister and Miss Courtley were

much less cordial than usual; but she could not feel much regret at the shyness, for she had long been convinced that that lady was a very improper person to be intrusted with the superintendance of the thoughtless Julia's conduct. She had long seen that her extreme apathy and indolence, independent of a want of proper principle, made her entirely inattentive to what was passing, excepting when her own interest was concerned, when she was always roused to a degree of animation which she never at any other time discovered

After Julia had waited a full fortnight for her anxiously expected letter, she came one morning into Isabella's room, in very visible agitation, and on her sister's enquiring the cause, "It is owing to that contemptible wretch!" (said she, with a voice almost choked with passion).

Who do you mean? (asked Isabella, with extreme surprize.)

Miss Courtley, to be sure! Who else could I mean?

I thought she had been one of your best friends. You have often spoken of her as such.

Yes! whilst I had money, and could make her presents, (said Julia, in a tone of extreme indignation,) I was always an angel; but now that she knows I have none, and she begins to be afraid I shall not pay her that which I had in my hand of hers, she has dunned me till I am weary, and now has the insolence to threaten to tell my uncle.

I was in hopes, (said Isabella, with a look of great distress,) that I had known the extent of the evil; but if you have still debts, which you did not acknowledge, I cannot tell where it is to stop.

I declare I had quite forgotten that the twenty-five pounds which my uncle gave me for her at the

beginning of the quarter, had never been paid, till she asked me for it the other day, after I had given you all my money; and for all I told her that I had not any money then, but that I expected to get some from Lady Ann in a day or two, and would pay her as soon as ever it arrived, she has teased me about it continually, and declares, this morning, that she will tell my uncle, not only of that, but of the money which I owe for the artificial flowers, which would be far worse,—for I know he would never forgive my remaining in these poor people's debt.

Is it possible! (asked Isabella, almost dreading to hear the answer to the enquiry she made.) Can it be possible, that you were one of the thoughtless fine ladies that the woman spoke of, who ordered flowers of that poor industrious creature who laboured to support a sick husband and helpless children, without ever thinking of paying for them?

I did not suppose, (said Julia, the blush of shame, almost for the first time in her life, suffusing her cheek,) that so small a sum as forty or fifty shillings could be of much consequence to any body.

Oh, Julia! (cried Isabella, in a tone of heartfelt distress, and keen reproach,) I had hoped that thoughtlessness was your greatest fault; but am grieved, indeed, to find that you are destitute even of the common feelings of humanity.

Oh! do not you desert me, too, (said Julia, bursting into tears,) for what will become of me?

I will never desert you, (answered Isabella, softened into a gentler tone at the sight of Julia's emotion;) but, alas! what can I do for you? There is only one expedient which I can devise to help you, and that I will adopt, without delay, if you will give me leave.

What is it? (asked Julia, eager to catch at the hope of assistance.)

To lay the whole business open to Frederick; and borrow some money of him to pay Miss Courtley, and the poor woman.

Not for the world! (cried Julia,) would I have you do so. I am sufficiently degraded already, without being exposed to his contempt and ridicule.

You know little of Frederick, if you think that contempt and ridicule would be returned for such a mark of confidence. The tenderest sympathy and commisseration, with ready assistance, would be all that you would receive from him.

He shall never be tried, (returned Julia, with determination;) and, if you do not mean to drive me to distraction, you will never say a word to him on the subject.

I should certainly never think of doing so without your leave, but should wish exceedingly to obtain it; for I do not know by what other means Miss Courtley can be pacified.

Yes! if you will go to her, and tell her that you will see that she is paid with the first money I receive, she will be satisfied, I am sure.

There is little chance of that, I fear, (said Isabella, shaking her head doubtfully.)

Oh! there is no doubt of it, (said Julia;) for she has so much confidence in you, that your word will be quite sufficient. Do then, dear Isabella, go directly, (added she, in a tone of supplication,) for fear of her meeting with my uncle, who is in the house, I know, and she will be sure to put her threats into execution the very first time she sees him. Isabella had just got to the door with the in-

tention of going in search of Miss Courtley, when a gentle tap was given, and, on opening it, a servant gave her two letters, which were, (she said,) for Miss Julia. At hearing of letters, Julia flew to the door, and almost snatched them out of her hand. One I see is from Lady Ann (said she). You may stay, therefore, Isabella, for I shall now be able to give her the money, and it may perhaps be my turn next to threaten to tell my uncle. Julia's spirits, however, were a little damped on opening her letter and finding it contained no inclosure; and, breathless with impatience to know the reason, and whether there was any money coming, she read, with extreme eagerness, the contents, which were as follow:

Dear Julia,

I was so constantly engaged after the receipt of your first letter, that I could not possibly find time to answer it, till the arrival of a second obliges me to snatch a hasty moment to reply. I am very sorry for the embarrassments which you mention, and the more so, as it is not in my power to do any thing towards extricating you. At the time that I married Colonel St. John, I did not consider it necessary to make him acquainted with a few debts which I had, thinking that I brought an income sufficiently liberal to defray them all I found afterwards, however, that he was in the same predicament, which I have now reason to believe was the cause of his long perseverance in his attentions to me, as he thought that my annuity would be an easy way of paying his debts. His disappointment at not finding it quite so clear as he expected, has induced him to take the

money entirely into his own hands, so that I can scarcely get as much as will supply myself with necessary pocket-money. There is nothing, therefore, for you to do but to learn economy, and clear yourself of the difficulties which you have got into, as soon as possible. I shall be very glad to hear when that is the case. And remain, dear Julia,

Your sincere friend,

ANN ST. JOHN.

Cruel Lady Ann (cried Julia, throwing down the letter, and clasping her hands in an agony of distress and disappointment;) she has brought me up in the habit of gratifying every wish, and now, when she knows me to be in distress and difficulties, she tells me, with the most cutting indifference, that I must learn economy. But I always said she had no heart, —it was only the appearance of one which she displayed, that glittered outwardly, but was as hard within as this is, (holding up, as she spoke, a little cornelian heart, that hung, suspended from a gold chain, round her neck.

You had better look at the other letter, (said Isabella, willing to relieve her sister's distress, by directing her attention to some other object;) perhaps it may be better worth reading.

Who can it be from, I wonder? (said Julia.) It surely is Frederick's hand-writing (added she, looking at the superscription). What can be the reason of his writing to me, I wonder? And she opened the letter, without perceiving that a small piece of paper dropped from it as she did so; which, however, Isabella took up, and laid on the table, without making any remark, whilst Julia read the following.

My dear Julia,

The near affinity of my dressing-room and yours, and the windows of both being wide open, will account for my overhearing the conversation which passed between Miss Courtley and you, about an hour ago; a circumstance that I sincerely rejoice at, as it affords me an opportunity, which, I am afraid, would not otherwise have been granted me, of being of service to you, which must always be a high gratification to my feelings. I hope, therefore, you will not hesitate about making use of the enclosed as a gift, if it is not painful to you so far to oblige me; but at any rate as a loan, not to be repaid till you are entirely free from all embarrassments, and can part with it without any deprivation to either your sister or yourself,—for my father's liberal allowance enables me to spare it without the smallest inconvenience. I cannot deny myself the gratification of telling you of the pleasure it gave me, to hear you say that your sister was become your confident and adviser. She is worthy of the trust reposed in her, and will, I am sure, be a comfort to you, as she has always been to whoever was connected with her. Do not scruple, my dear Julia, to repose in her every particular of your situation, for you will always be sure to receive the most affectionate sympathy and judicious advice in return. I beg that no notice may be taken, when we meet, of the contents of this letter, but that you will be as silent on the subject as you may depend on my being,—for I shall not mention it even to Douglas. Do not, therefore, give yourself any concern at the affair having come to my

knowledge, for, depend upon it, there will never be any other use made of it than is done at present by your affectionate friend and cousin,

FREDERICK MACKENZIE.

Kind and generous Frederick! (cried Julia, her eyes swimming with tears as she took up the note, and saw it was one of fifty pounds.) This is, indeed, real friendship; and a return which I was little deserving of from you, whom I have so often tried to wound, by ridiculing Isabella,—the most susceptible point on which I know your feelings to be assailable.

It is just what I knew you might expect from him, (said Isabella, her eyes sparkling with delight at this proof that she was not mistaken in her judgment;) for he always was kind and considerate to all around him. But let us make haste, (added she,) to put the most effectual stop to Miss Courtley's tongue, by paying her. She then gave Julia smaller notes to the amount of her large one, and putting the twenty-five pounds in a note from Julia, Isabella took it to her room, and gave it to her, and had just returned, when another tap at the door summoned Isabella to it. "My master wishes to see Miss Julia in the breakfast-room, ma'am," (said a servant, as she opened it.) Oh dear! (cried Julia, in great alarm,) what can my uncle want, excepting Miss Courtley has met with him, and told her tale? Do go with me, Isabella, for I am afraid to see him alone.

You have never been in the habit of receiving any severity from him, (remonstrated Isabella,) and need not now be so much alarmed.

At any rate I shall have great need of you, to support and plead for me, (returned the agitated Julia.) Let me, therefore, entreat you to go with me.

Isabella complied. And they proceeded down stairs as fast as Julia's tottering limbs would allow her; but, on opening the room-door, she started back as though she had seen a spectre; for the first object she beheld, was the poor woman, to whom she was in debt for the artificial flowers, standing near it.—Come in, (said the captain, in a voice very different from his usual tone,) you need not be afraid of this poor woman, she will not do you as much harm as you have done to her.

Julia, no longer able to command herself, rushed forward, and throwing herself at her uncle's feet, clasped her arms round his knees, and burst into a violent flood of tears. I am glad to see these tears, (said the captain, his own voice faultering as he spoke,) I hope they are tears of penitence and amendment. I have heard of all that has passed amongst you; first from Miss Courtley, and afterwards from Liddle, whom I questioned on the subject. I know, therefore, how you have behaved, and what a sister Isabella has proved herself, and called you down, whilst this poor woman was here, whom I sent for, that she might be no longer without her money, and that you might have the punishment you so richly deserve, of looking at a person you have injured. The poor woman, whose situation was scarcely less painful than Julia's, now begged permission to withdraw, which, at Isabella's request, was granted. The captain, now desiring Julia to rise, said,—Though Miss Courtley has exposed you, she has also exposed herself, and proved

herself to be a mean contemptible wretch, whom I can never more have patience to look upon; and am determined, therefore, to discharge her, and desire that she may leave my house immediately. However you may be to blame, she is much more so,—for having countenanced you so long in your extravagant and unprincipled behaviour. You shall go, Isabella, and take her both that and the five-and-twenty pounds which Julia owes her, as well as a note from me to let her know my wishes.

The five-and-twenty pounds are already paid, sir, (said Julia, speaking as well as her agitation would allow her.)

Paid! (cried the captain.) How can that be? it is not much more than an hour since she told me of it.

But since that time she has received it. Isabella took it to her just before we came down stairs.

And where did the money come from?

Julia, without speaking, put Frederick's letter into her uncle's hand, who, on reading it, exclaimed,—Frederick is indeed a fine fellow; and I shall the sooner forgive the pain you have given me this morning, as you have been the means of my knowing how to value both his and Isabella's character, neither of whom I ever before thought of as they deserved, from the foolish idea, that they were too learned to be worth much besides. Frederick and Douglas now opened the room-door, but seeing their uncle and his nieces apparently in deep conversation, they were drawing back, but Julia seeing them,—Come in, (said she, going towards the door,) for I am the only one who can possibly feel any pain at your presence; but, as I have a favour to beg of my

uncle, I wish for all the interest I can obtain, to prevail on him to grant it, and I know well that I may make myself sure of both of yours, in addition to Isabella's.

With such interest, (said the captain, recovering his composure, and speaking with more cheerfulness,) the favour must be a most unreasonable one to be refused.

I am painfully conscious, (said Julia, blushing deeply,) that my behaviour gives me little right to expect any indulgence, even from my kind uncle; yet, with the knowledge that I have of myself, I am very sure, that even the repentance, which I feel at this moment to be very sincere, is not to be depended upon if I remain in the way of temptation. I should, therefore, wish to be allowed to go for a little time into the country to one of those seminaries, now so common, for the accommodation of young people, who, like me, (added she, smiling, as a little of her native liveliness made its way through her agitation,) are too old for school, yet too young to have sense to direct themselves, where I should have an opportunity of acquiring a little more judgment, and should return, I hope, better fitted to reward my uncle for his kindness.

Oh! (said Isabella,) if you would but go to my aunt Mackenzie.

We cannot suppose that my aunt would be troubled with me, (answered Julia;) for she would not find me an Isabella.

I will answer for her in that respect (said Frederick). Nothing, I am sure, would give my mother greater pleasure than to be of service to the sister of Isabella.

That is an excellent thought, (said the captain.) We will all go down in a body to Oaklands immediately, where we will stay as long as we can, and then leave Julia behind, if both she and her aunt should wish it. Nothing could describe the delight of Isabella's countenance at this declaration. Oh! dear, sweet, Oaklands! (she exclaimed, in an ecstasy of pleasure;) shall I then see you again once more! A knock at the door here announced a visitor; and, soon after, Mary Ann Hulme made her appearance. It was easy for her to see, by the countenances of the whole party, that something particular had occurred amongst them; but, on examining Isabella's face, and seeing there stronger marks of pleasure than of pain, she had no further wish to be informed of its nature than they might seem willing to unfold. Frederick, however, soon told her of the journey that had just been fixed upon, and called upon her for her congratulations.

But thou dost not consider, (said she,) how great a sufferer I shall be by this arrangement, or else thou wouldst rather offer me thy condolences. For what compensation canst thou make me for taking my friend away just as I had begun to taste the happiness of having her near me?

That of giving my mother a hint that it might not be impossible to get you to accompany her, (answered Frederick, gaily.) You know you were saying the other day, that your father was going to make a tour amongst the different societies of friends throughout the kingdom; and that you were to be quartered, in the mean time, upon whoever would have the trouble of you. Now, as I know my mother is a favourite with him, I hope he will not make any ob-

jection to entrusting his daughter with her during his absence.

Not unless he be afraid (said Mary Ann, laughing), that amongst so many heretics, I may be persuaded to become an apostate to the church.

I am sure, for my part, I will give him a solemn promise never to endeavour to make you one, (said Douglas, with warmth;) for I would not, for the world, have you different, in the smallest particular, from what you now are.

But, indeed, (added he, checking the ardour of his manner, of which he became conscious, by observing the crimson which dyed Mary Ann's face and neck,) there is so little real difference between us, that there would not be much glory in a conversion on either side. By agreeing to differ, in a few unimportant points, we shall, I am sure, enjoy a perfect union on every other subject.

I shall rejoice in having Mary Ann with us, (said Julia;) for it will give me an opportunity of making amends for the many improprieties of my behaviour towards her, and for which I now most sincerely beg her pardon; whilst I assure her of my resolution to endeavour to deserve that friendship, which she so kindly offered on our first acquaintance, and which I did not then know how to appreciate. Mary Ann held out her hand to Julia, but, before she could make a reply, the captain exclaimed,—"I have no doubt we shall all of us like one another better than we have ever done yet, and enjoy ourselves at Oaklands exceedingly, this fine weather. I will go directly and write to my sister, and tell her of the party she may expect." And now, with the concluding sentence of that letter, we will close our story:—"Never again will I de-

pend upon the promises of childhood for the future character; for I am now of your opinion, that, though amiable dispositions may assist in the production of good fruit, as a rich soil aids the labour of the husbandman, it depends upon education and example to determine what the future crop shall be, —for, certainly, as we have now a striking instance, they are capable of producing

MOST WONDERFUL

# METAMORPHOSES."

THE END.

Printed by W. Darton, jun. 58, Holborn Hill.

# BOOKS FOR YOUTH,

RECENTLY

## *Published by W. DARTON, Jun.*

58, HOLBORN HILL,

LONDON.

1.

THE ADVENTURES of a DONKEY. By ARABELLA ARGUS, author of "The Juvenile Spectator." 18mo. half-bound. Price 2s. 6d.

2.

SIMPLE TRUTHS, in verse; a new edition; for the Amusement and Instruction of Children, at an early age. By MARY BELSON, author of "Innocent Poetry," "Grateful Tributes," "The Orphan Boy," "Precept and Example," "Industry and Idleness," "Modern Goody Two-Shoes," &c. &c. 18mo. half-bound. Price 1s. 6d.

3.

The ORNAMENTS DISCOVERED; a story; two parts in one. By the Author of "Aunt Mary's Tales." 18mo. half-bound, price 2s. 6d.

4.

A NEW HISTORY OF ENGLAND, from the Invasion of Julius Cæsar to the Present Time; in Two Parts. Price 1s. each Part.

5.

The ADVENTURES of my GRAND-MOTHER'S CAT; or, Puss in Boots. With numerous Copper-plates. Price 1s.

6.

The HISTORY of MR. RIGHTWAY and his PUPILS; an Entertaining and Instructive Lesson for Young Gentlemen. Written by WILLIAM FRANCIS SULLIVAN, A.M. Price 1s. 6d. half-bound.

7.

The BOOK OF BIRDS; beautifully coloured: with a Description of each, adapted to the capacities of Infant Minds, in Words of Two and Three Syllables. Price 1s. 6d.

8.

The BOOK OF BEASTS; beautifully coloured; with a Description of each, adapted to the capacities of Infant Minds, in Words of Two and Three Syllables. Price 1s. 6d.

9.

FOOD for the YOUNG; adapted to the mental capacities of Children of Tender Years. By a Mother. 18mo. half-bound. Price 2s.

10.

PROFITABLE AMUSEMENT FOR CHILDREN; or, Familiar Tales; combining useful Instruction with pleasing Entertainment. By the Author of "Learning better than House and Land." Price 2s.

11.

LECTURES AT MY SCHOOL; or, Play-ground Conversations. By a Friend to Youth. A new edition, illustrated with upwards of sixty elegant Engravings. Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

12.

GRATEFUL TRIBUTES; or, Recollections of Infancy. By MARY BELSON, author of "Industry and Idleness," &c. Price, with Plates, 1s. 6d.—And the same, in 18mo. with six plain Plates, (a New Edition) Price 6d.

13.

A GRAMMATICAL CATECHISM, with Notes, for the Use of Schools; exhibiting a compendium of Grammar, in question and answer, designed for the purpose of examination on that study; second edition. By MRS. THACKWRAY, Walworth. Price 1s.

14.

A FIRST OR MOTHER'S DICTIONARY FOR CHILDREN; containing upwards of Three Thousand Eight Hundred Words, which occur most frequently in Books and Conversation, simply and familiarly explained, and interspersed throughout with occasional remarks: the whole adapted to the capacities of Younger Pupils. By ANNA BROWNWELL MURPHY, 18mo. Price 4s. 6d. bound.

15.

FRANKLIN'S WAY TO WEALTH; or, Poor Richard Improved; to which is added, "How to make *Much* of a *Little*;" earnestly recommended to the Industrious Poor; also, "Alphabetical Maxims," worthy the remembrance and regard of all. An entire new edition, with several Copper-plates. By BOB SHORT. Price 6d.

16.

INDUSTRY AND IDLENESS, a pleasing and instructive Tale for Good Little Girls, in words not exceeding Two Syllables; a new edition, corrected. Price 1s.

17.

PRECEPT AND EXAMPLE; or, Midsummer Holidays: to which is added, The Mother's Reward; or, Christmas Holidays; a new edition, improved. By MARY BELSON, author of "The Orphan Boy." Price 1s. 6d. half-bound.

18.

The FIRST, OR MOTHER'S CATECHISM; containing Common Things necessary to be known at an Early Age. By the Rev. DAVID BLAIR. Price 9d.

19.

The FRENCH AND ENGLISH PRIMER; or, an Easy Vocabulary of Twelve Hundred Common Words, for the Use of Children. By the ABBE BOSSUT. Price 9d.

20.

The LITTLE VOCABULARY, intended as an Introduction to any of the larger Spelling-Books, and particularly designed to assist Mothers in the Instruction of their Young Children. Price 6d.

21.

EASY READING; adapted to the capacities of Children from Five to Seven Years old; designed to advance them by natural and easy gradations to the perusal of larger works; being a companion to, and intended to follow, the "Little Vocabulary." Divided into a number of short Lessons, and embellished with many Wood-cuts. By MRS. LOVECHILD. Price 1s.

22.

The YELLOW SHOE-STRINGS; or, the Good Effects of Obedience to Parents. Price 1s.

23.

The MODERN GOODY TWO-SHOES; exemplifying the Good Consequences of an early attention to Learning and Virtue. By MARY BELSON, author of "The Orphan Boy," "Industry and Idleness," &c. &c. Price 1s.

24.

HENRY: a Story for Little Boys and Girls from Five to Seven Years old. By FRANCES BOWYER VAUX. In two Parts, price 1s. each Part.

25.

LEARNING BETTER THAN HOUSE AND LAND, as exemplified in the History of Harry Johnson and Dick Hobson. By J. CAREY, LL.D. 2s. 6d. half-bound.

26.

The SCRIPTURE ALPHABET, by a Parent, for his Children; illustrated with twenty-seven Engravings from Scripture. Price 1s.

27.

The ADVENTURES of the Celebrated Little THOMAS DELLOW, who was stolen from his Parents on the 18th of November, 1811, and restored to them on the 3d of January, 1812. Illustrated by Eight Characteristic Engravings. Price 1s.

28.

LONDON: a Descriptive Poem. Second edition, corrected, and illustrated with elegant Views on Copper-plates. Price 1s.

29.

A VISIT TO LONDON; containing a Description of the principal Curiosities in the British Metropolis. With Six Copper-plates. Price 2s. 6d.

30.

A VISIT TO A FARM HOUSE; or, an Introduction to various Subjects connected with Rural Economy. Embellished with beautiful Plates. Price 2s. 6d.

31.

JUVENILE PLUTARCH; containing accounts of the Lives of Celebrated Children, and of the Infancy of Persons who have been illustrious for their virtues or talents. With Plates. Two vols. price 5s.

32.

The WONDERS of the MICROSCOPE; or, an Explanation of the Wisdom of the Creator, in objects comparatively minute, adapted to the Understanding of young Persons. Illustrated with Five large Copper-plates. Price 4s. 6d.

33.

The WONDERS of the TELESCOPE; or, a Display of the Starry Heavens and of the System of the Universe: calculated to promote and simplify the Study of Astronomy. With Fourteen Plates. Price 6s.

34.

The JUVENILE SPECTATOR; being Observations on the Tempers, Manners, and Foibles of various Young Persons: interspersed with such lively matter, as, it is presumed, will amuse as well as instruct. By ARABELLA ARGUS. Two vols. in one, 8s.

35.

The WONDERS of the HORSE; recorded in Anecdotes, and interspersed with Poetry. By JOSEPH TAYLOR, author of "Tales of the Robin." Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

36.

The MICE and their PIC-NIC; an Allegorical Tale, representing the Manners and Customs of the present Age; in Contentment—a Fashionable Visitor—High

Breeding—the Effects of Fashion—the Epicure—an Invitation—a Consultation and Journey—a Season in London—Etiquette, &c. Price 1s. coloured plates, or 6d. plain.

37.

On the EDUCATION of DAUGHTERS; translated from the French of the Abbé Fenelon, afterwards Archbishop of Cambray 12mo. half bound. Price 2s. 6d. with a beautiful Frontispiece.

38.

The SPHINX; or, Allegorical Lozenges. By a Descendant of Cleobulina, an ancient composer of Enigmas, &c. Price 6d.

39.

A DESCRIPTION of the most remarkable TREES, PLANTS, and SHRUBS, in all parts of the World; illustrated with several curious Anecdotes of their Wonderful Properties, and, at the same time, manifesting infinite wisdom in the formation of those valuable productions, so beneficial to all mankind. By JOSEPH TAYLOR, author of "Tales of the Robin," 12mo. Price 4s. neatly half bound.

40.

The TRUE HISTORY of a LITTLE BOY who cheated himself. Founded on fact. With appropriate Cuts. Price 1s. 6d. coloured, or 1s. plain.

41.

STUDIES IN PENMANSHIP, for the Use of Schools; being Specimens of the various Hands now in Use. Written by JOHN DONBAVAND, Writing-master of Ackworth School. Price 1s.

42.

The WONDERS OF ANIMATED NATURE: consisting of Descriptions at large, and engraved Representations of the principal Animals and Birds in the Royal Menageries of London and Paris. Translated from La Cepede, with considerable additions by the English Editor, 8vo. half-bound. Price 8s.

43.

The GOOD BOY'S SOLILOQUY; containing his Parent's Instructions relative to his Disposition and Manners. Illustrated with Sixteen Copper-plate Cuts. Price 1s.

44.

PORTRAITS OF CURIOUS CHARACTERS IN LONDON, &c. &c. with descriptive and entertaining Anecdotes. Price 1s.

Containing Likenesses of the following singular Characters: Nathaniel Bentley, Esq.; Ann Siggs; Martin Van Butchell; John Statham; Anne Longman; John and Robert Green; Tom and his Pigeons; Roger Smith; George Romondo; Toby, or Sham Abraham; Sir John Dinely; Brother John and I; Ann Johnson; Samuel Horsey; Miss Theodora de Verdion, who dressed as a man; Daniel Lambert; Mary Jones; A well-known Carver in Fleet Market; John Elwes, Esq the Miser; The Flying Pie-man; Thomas Laugher, aged 109 Years; Daniel Dancer, Esq. The above Portraits are accompanied with a Biographical Sketch of each Character, which will be found highly interesting.

45.

The WHIM WHAM; or, Evening Amusements for all Ages and Sizes; being an entire new set of Riddles, Charades, Questions, and Transpositions. By a Friend to Innocent Mirth. Price 6d.

46.

SCRIPTURE CHARACTERS, by a Parent, for his Children; illustrated with several beautiful Plates. Price 1s. 6d.

47.

TALES of the ROBIN, and other small Birds. By Joseph Taylor. Price 2s. 6d.

48.

The BOOK OF GAMES; or, a History of Juvenile Sports, practised at a considerable Academy near London. Illustrated by Twenty-four Copper-plates. Price 3s. 6d. half-bound.

49.

The ADVENTURES and CONVERSATIONS of a SUMMER'S MORNING; intended to entertain and instruct the Minds of Youth; a new edition, improved. By William Wiseacre, Esq. Price 1s. 6d. half-bound.

50.

LONDON MELODIES; or, Cries of the Seasons. Two Parts, price 1s. each, with several Engravings.

51.

The BABY'S HOLIDAY; to which is added, the White Lily. By Mary Belson, author of several popular Works. Price 1s. coloured Plates.

52.

The FIRST STEP to KNOWLEDGE; being an easy Introduction to the various English Spelling Books. By the Rev. J. Goldsmith; 28th edition. Price 6d.

53.

INNOCENT POETRY for Infant Minds; by the Author of "Industry and Idleness," and "Precept and Example;" fourth edition, considerably improved, with New Copper-plates. Price 1s.

54.

The GEOGRAPHICAL PRIMER; designed for the Younger Classes of Learners, and calculated to advance them, by natural and easy gradations, to a perfect acquaintance with the Elements of the Science; with an Appendix, containing Fourteen Hundred Questions on the principal Maps. By J. H. WIFFEN. 18mo. 3s. bound.

55.

The INVITED ALPHABET; or, Address of A to B; containing his friendly proposal for the Amusement and Instruction of good Children, with Twenty-five Engravings on Copper-plates. Price 1s. 6d.

56.

The ASSEMBLED ALPHABET; or, Acceptance of A's Invitation; concluding with a Glee for Three Voices. Being a sequel to the Invited Alphabet, with elegant Copper-plate Engravings. Price 1s. 6d.

57.

INFANTILE ERUDITION; concluding with a Glee for Three Voices; to which are added, the Figure Dancers. The whole intended as a supplement to the Invited and Assembled Alphabets; illustrated with beautiful Copper-plates. Price 1s. 6d.

58.

A NEW and ENTERTAINING ALPHABET, for Young Children, where some Instruction may be gained, and much Amusement; embellished with Twenty-six Engravings. Price 6d.

59.

DIVINE and MORAL SONGS for the Use of CHILDREN. By Isaac Watts, D.D. With many Plates, price 6d.

60.

A NOSEGAY for the TROUBLE OF CULLING; or, Sports of Childhood; with many Cuts. Price 1s.

61.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF EMINENT BRITISH CHARACTERS; containing the Life and Character, Labours and Actions, of several British Worthies, accompanied with several Portraits. Price 6d. with Nine Portraits, and 1s. with Eighteen Portraits.

62.

A SCHOOL DICTIONARY; or, Entick's English Dictionary, abridged, and adapted to the Use of Schools; containing only the roots of words, and those of importance and utility, and omitting derivative, obsolete, vulgar, and unusual words. By the Rev. David Blair, author of "The First, or Mother's Catechism;" third edition, with numerous improvements. Price 3s. bound.

63.

The ROYAL MUSEUM, or Picture Book; containing a large number of engraved Subjects. Price 6d.

64.

AN OUTLINE OF SCRIPTURE HISTORY, with an Introduction to the Church Catechism. By a Lady; for the use of her Children. Price 6d.

65.

A TOUR THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE OF FRANCE; or, New Topographical and Historical Sketch of all its most important and interesting Cities, Towns, Forts, Castles, Palaces, Islands, Harbours, Bridges, Rivers, Antiquities, &c. &c. Interspersed with curious and illustrative Anecdotes of the Customs, Manners, Dress, &c. of the Inhabitants. By JOHN BARNES. Embellished with Copper-plates, 12mo. half bound, price 4s. or with coloured Plates, price 6s.

66.

The Pleasing, Interesting, and Affecting HISTORY OF PRINCE LEE BOO; with an Account of the Pelew Islands. Embellished with elegant Copper-plates. Price 1s.

67.

CLASSICAL ENIGMAS, adapted to every Month in the Year, composed from the English and Roman Histories, Heathen Mythology and names of famous Writers; to which are added, Riddles, Transpositions, Charades, and Queries; meant to amuse youth of all ages, and at the same time to exert their memories, by calling to mind what they have read at different times. A new edition. By Mrs. ANNE RITSON. Price 6d.

68.

REFLECTIONS for the SEVEN DAYS of the WEEK; written for the use of the Young; and expressly designed for those Children who are educated at the public expense. Dedicated, by permission, to Her Royal Highness the Princess Augusta. By ELIZABETH BELSON. Price 6d.

69.

The METAMORPHOSES; or, Effects of Education: a Tale. By the Author of "Aunt Mary's Tales;" "The Ornaments Discovered." 18mo. half bound. Price 2s. 6d.

Printed by W. Darton, Jun. 58, Holborn-Hill.